

Welsh docklands gets big arts cash injection

A MAJOR new arts centre will be the centrepiece of ambitious plans to revitalize Cardiff Docks, announced last week by the Welsh Office.

Speaking at the launch of the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation, Welsh secretary Nicholas Edwards said a "design study" by the Welsh Arts Council would be commissioned immediately.

He also said the arts centre could be the new home of the Welsh National Opera although this was not a "realistic proposition in the next two or three years" because of the scale of resources needed.

An advisory group, set up by the Welsh Office, discussed the

possibility of a design competition to secure a building of "major importance".

The group — whose members included architect Gordon Bowyer — also discussed the

possibility of housing the opera in the courtyard of the National Museum of Wales.

The idea was dropped in favour of an earlier scheme by the museum's architects, the Alex Gordon Partnership, to use the courtyard for a new visual arts centre.

Total space in the new museum gallery for paintings and sculpture will double to 3,000sq

m with between 500sq and 800sq m for temporary exhibitions.

Open-plan galleries are planned offering a "grand vista" approach with the air-conditioning and lighting facilities the museum has always lacked.

The scheme will also include an audio-visual theatre, a restaurant, shop and information centre.

He also said more resources would be made available for the Welsh National Folk Museum at St Fagans, near Cardiff, and agreed to a major refurbishment of the New Theatre to provide better facilities.

A third site for the opera house at Dute West Dock, currently undergoing major redevelopment by Tarmac, has

been dropped because of its proximity to a giant steelworks.

This cash injection for the arts was announced along with plans to set up an urban development corporation for Cardiff's docklands.

A Welsh Office spokesman said the new corporation would be very different from those operating in London and Merseyside.

Edwards said the "bold and ambitious plan" is unique because it has the full co-operation of the local authorities involved.

"This is quite different from other places where the government has had to impose an organisation on unwilling local authorities," he said.

● A report commissioned by the Welsh Office from international property consultants Jones Lang Wootton also emphasised the need for top quality architects.

"Top quality architectural and design standards are important ingredients, possibly through the preparation of well-defined briefs for individual sites, but also through the encouragement of the use of first-class architects and architectural competitions," said the report.

US practice raises cash

AMERICAN architects Tribble Harris Li raised the \$4 million they were looking for this week from their USM flotation.

Trading in the 3.6 million shares on offer opened on

Monday at a modest premium of 9p on the placing price of 112p. As *BD* went to press, the share price was holding firm at 121p.

The placing values the firm at around £14 million.

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UJA guest

THE Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Terry Waite, has accepted an invitation to speak at next summer's International Union of Architects Congress in Brighton.

Waite has worked as a co-ordinator on the Southern Sudan relief project and is a member of the Council of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.



As a result of extensive market research, the Birmingham Visitor & Convention Centre.

Designed by the Percy Thomas Partnership and Renton Howard Wootton, it is due for completion in 1991. The centre is to have two further halls, 400 more people to use the facilities, increasing the total capacity to 9,000.

The number of halls is being increased to a total of eleven, with four new suites, each capable of holding meetings of up to 40 people.

Rogers sets competition

RICHARD Rogers is to be the main assessor for the fifth RIBA International Design Competition for architecture students.

His theme, "New in the Old" will ask entrants to design a new public building for an existing urban space of their choice.

Details will be sent to schools shortly and submissions must reach the RIBA by Friday, May 1.

YRM triple in Swindon

THAMESDOWN planners have granted planning consent to Tricentre 3 — the next phase of the YRM's proposals for Swindon, designed jointly by YRM and Peter Carter.

Work on the new 6,000sq m building will start next spring and with the completion due in 1988.

Allied Dunbar already owns two buildings by the architectural team — the 100,000sq m Life Centre and the 100,000sq m Tricentre 1 block.

These two buildings were awarded the RIBA Award for Best Architecture at Work in 1985.

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Torquay, currently embroiled in a new planning row, serves as an apt example, but the purpose of the conference ranges far wider, from looking at the potential for government incentive for inner city and town centre regeneration to the role of trusts, developers, pension funds and other sources of finance.

We will be looking at other specific examples: Cline, Chesterfield, Edinburgh, Lancaster, Leeds, Shrewsbury, Wimbledon, Wokingham, Worcester and others.

Speakers will include:

Tony Aldous; Tom Forde of English Heritage; Charles Knevil; new Director of Inner City Aid; Gordon Mitchell; Geoffrey Mitchell of Felldon & Munson

Ken Powell of SAVE

Teresa Sladen of the Victorian Society

Acanthus members Andrew Arrol, George Ferguson, Derek Latham and James Simpson

and John McSherry The man from the PRU

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Please return within 10 days and enclose any other relevant information, illustrations etc.

Contact name and address

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BUILDING DESIGN

The weekly newspaper for the design team

FRIDAY DECEMBER 19 1986

Lutyens relative support

LUTYENS' grand-daughter, Candia, has voiced her opposition to Greycoat's proposals for Lutyens House in Finsbury Park in the City.

As revealed in *BD* last week, the developer has appointed additional architects in an attempt to win detailed listed building consent for an atrium

extension. The Lutyens Trust has backed all the designs proposed so far as inadequate.

Now Candia Lutyens, in a letter to *BD*, questions the need for more atrium buildings, and suggests they could be added to the catalogue of follies of the past.

She criticised the "suggestion to transpose this 80s non-venue into a fine example of a Lutyens building in London."

"Old-fashioned (Edwardian) architecture is not the answer," she said.

These two buildings were awarded the RIBA Award for Best Architecture at Work in 1985.

Drawings Collection delay

I WON'T SIGN YET, SAYS NEW CURATOR

THE proposed new RIBA Drawings Collection curator has still not signed a contract for the job he was offered more than a month ago.

Although Cambridge-based Thomas Cocke verbally accepted the post, he told *BD* this week that he would

By John Wood

not formally accept until the dispute over deputy curator Jill Lever was resolved.

Her union, the Association of Scientific Technical & Managerial Staff has protested against Cocke's appointment. It believes Lever, who has worked for the RIBA since 1959 and as deputy curator since 1970, is the best qualified candidate.

The union hopes the dispute can be settled internally, but depending on the outcome of a meeting today (Friday) it will consider industrial action in the New Year.

ASTMS has also been advised that it could bring an action against the institute under the Sex Discrimination Act.

Cocke, who is an investigator with the Historic Monuments Commission, was due to

start work as the curator on January 5. He admitted this would be unlikely even if the dispute was settled swiftly.

But he said he would be able to take up the post shortly after he formally accepted.

Reports that the collection's move had been scrapped by RIBA policy committee could not be confirmed as *BD* went to press.

The last curator, John Harris, resigned over plans to move the collection — and president-elect Rod Hackney has pledged to bring him back in a significant role which could affect Cocke.

And opponents to the move are lobbying hard for their solution to the Heinz Gallery's space problems.

Home House, at 20 Portman Square, and its neighbour 19, become available in 1989 when the Courtauld Institute moves to Somerset House.

It has been suggested that the gallery's space problems could be solved and a new institute of architectural history formed by combining the buildings.

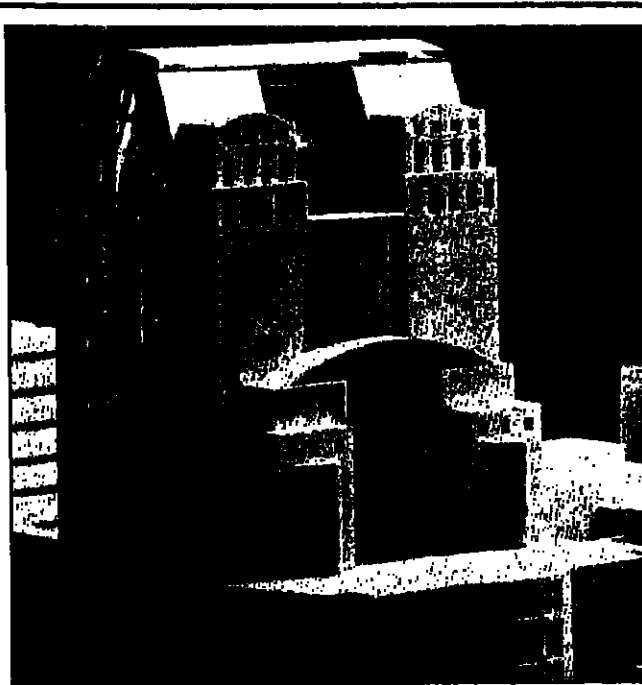
Our next issue

BD is taking its annual Christmas break. The next issue will appear on January 9, 1987.

Tenants accuse council of safety 'cover-up'

TENANTS living in high-rise blocks of Reema system-built flats in Leeds are accusing the city council of a cover-up over structural conditions.

The Deane Tenants Association alleges that vital information found by consultant engi-



Terry Farrell's latest London Wall scheme.

City gets generous over office permits

In an end-of-year planning bonanza, the City Corporation planning committee approved nearly 200,000sq m of offices this week.

Terry Farrell won the unanimous approval for his scheme to replace Moor House on London Wall (pictured).

The 27,000sq m 19-storey building has yet to get consent from the Court of Common Council, where his Alban Gate scheme for MEPC failed to win permission a few weeks ago.

The council is to consider the latest development on January 8, but as the building does not block views from the Barbican, and offers considerable planning gain, support is likely.

Nevertheless, the next few weeks are likely to be an anxious time for Farrell and the owner of Moor House, Scottish Amicable Life Assurance.

Three levels of specially shopping and restaurants are included in the lower parts of the building while new walkways link across London Wall and to St Alphage Highwalk on the northern side of the 1960s street.

Three dealer floors of around 2,700sq m form the base of the building, over the retailing space. In all 22,300sq m of offices will be provided.

Other permissions included the first two phases of Roseburgh Square's proposals for the Bishopsgate frontage of the Broadgate

scheme. Designed by Skidmore Owings & Merrill, the two buildings will provide 38,250sq m and 31,500sq m. The rest of the Bishopsgate site will provide a further 153,000sq m.

At the same meeting, Fitzroy Robinson's design for an 11,700sq m 12-storey office scheme on the site of Barnard's Inn, just west of Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group building, was thrown out.

Arlington Securities already has an outline planning consent for a scheme. Meanwhile Town & City has been awarded planning permission for a 16,622sq m office block at the Old Bailey, designed by Elsom Pack & Roberts.

In addition to industrial and storage buildings the DoE's new regulations aim "to save in a cost-effective way about 20 per cent of the energy required for space heating in a typical house, and to improve energy in offices, shops and other buildings".

The first round of consultation will last until March 31.



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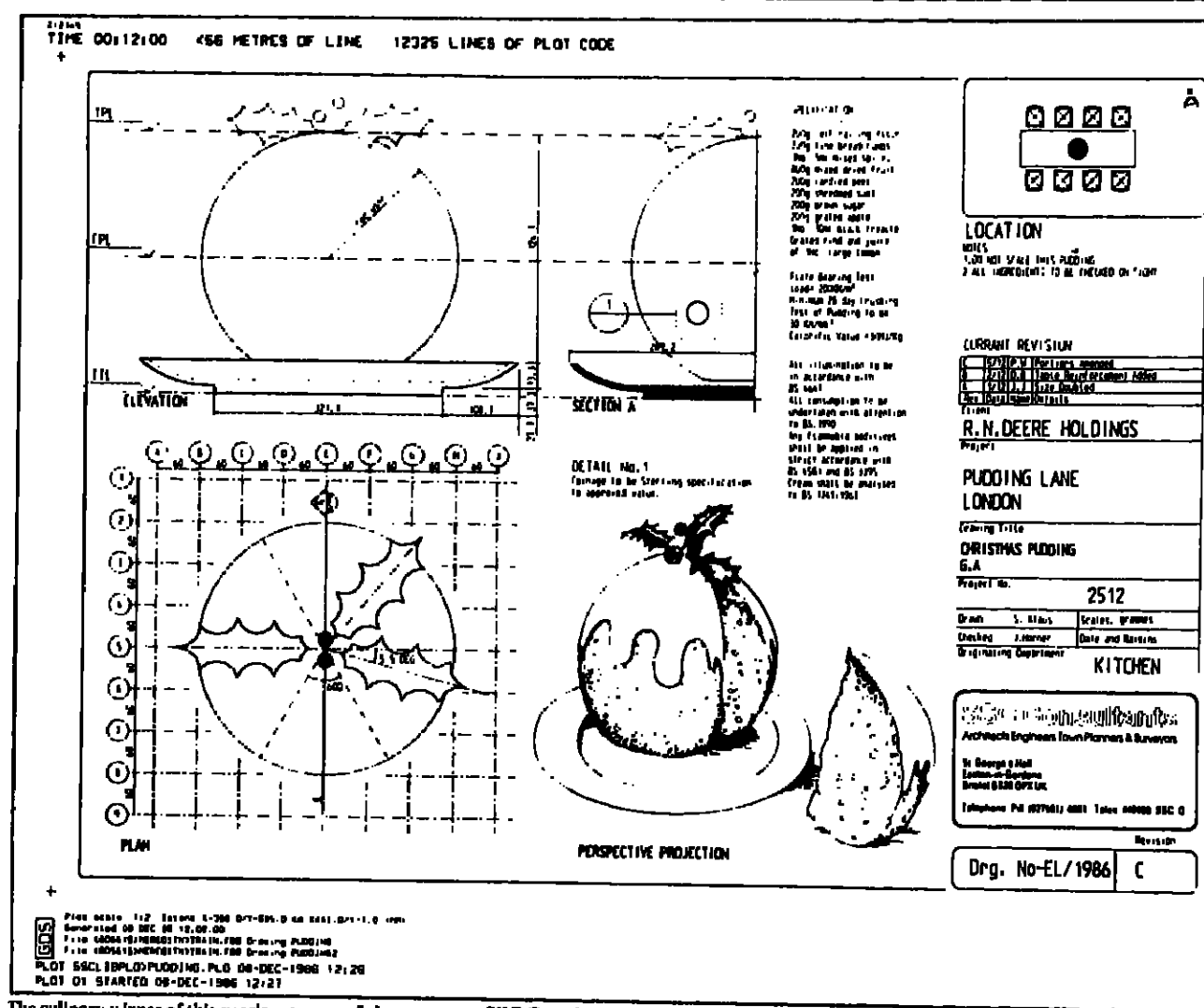
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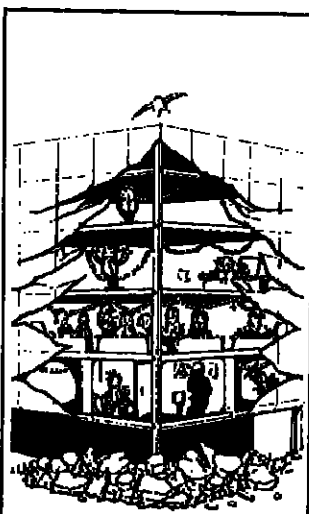
Rostrum



The culinary winner of this year's magnum of champagne — SSC Consultants of Bristol.

Christmas cheer!

We review this year's architect-designed Christmas cards — the winner is above, honourable mentions below, and a mention to Yakeley Associates for a clever idea which we would have trouble reproducing.



JTL Architects — wishing clients a smashing Christmas and a cracking New Year, presumably in the spirit of Roman Point.



Above: Card designed for Barrow-in-Furness Civic Society by Barrow chief architect Trevor Sharnipon (last year's winner). It features a redundant building converted into a living hotel.

Below: the RIAS card, designed and drawn by Graham Wylie.



Immaculate drawings as usual from Richard Rold.

Curl up with a stocking filler

Alan Blanc picks some light reading for Christmas and the New Year.

MY selection is based on those books that have given me the greatest pleasure in 1986. Some reflect my need for well-written English while working for eight months on the West Coast of the US earlier in the year.

Times past, there was a shared list with Walter Segal, and an overlap exists with those days with the works of Freya Stark; since Walter's reading pace ran to three volumes a week as compared with my staid consumption of a book per fortnight I start therefore with Miss Stark, my particular favourite read last December and January being *The Southern Gates of Arabia* and *A Winter in Arabia*, both reprints published by Century Publishing Co.

There are companion diaries by the author that run from 1928 through to 1939 and World War II, which describe the continuous thread of recent history in the Emerald Crescent and the growing trials and tribulations of Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.

There is superb descriptive writing of places and townships, the most interesting architectural pieces relating to the Euphrates valley and southern Arabia before war or oil wealth ruined the natural vernacular. It's worth providing this quote On Shibam Wadi Hadhramaut Yemen to whet the appetite:

"As we got nearer, its sides showed the same little beehive holes, the same vertical fissures, as the ancient cliff sides. But it wasn't cliff — it was Shibam, 500 houses all crowded together in a narrow space in the middle of the valley, with a huge graveyard in a hollow beside it. We got near it into bumpy ground, with palms and ditches; the long cliffs of the side valleys open away from it, and we saw it through face-top palms, the houses rising seven storeys or so, their narrow white decorated tops giving them a look as if they leant back away from us; a little mosque is clustered in their shadows, squashed up among them, its minaret and cupola reaching shoulder high, another little white mosque in front like a bee — it is all delicate work of trellis and wave in mud, white and made smooth and shiny, and then pink with dust.

"The houses have long straight shafts let into their sides for drainage, which makes them even taller and more like skyscrapers; we went round the outer ditch and came to a sloping earthy space, a well and saqaya with rows of earthen water jars beside it; women in trailing blue carrying skins of water, and on a rise of about 6 metres, up a cobbly way, the white gate of the town."

The other diaries are entitled *Beyond Euphrates 1928-33*, *The Coast of Incense 1933-39* and *Dust in the Lion's Paw 1939-46* (all published by Century).

War-torn Afghanistan is another country that is losing its heritage. The story of that past glory is well told by Eric Newby in a reprint of *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush* (Picador). My time at Washington State University had an Afghan connection through Rafi Samizay, a Kabul refugee architect who left his homeland six years ago. His contribution to understanding

that remote country is a finely illustrated textbook *Traditional Architecture of Afghanistan* compiled with Stanley Hallett. A new edition is promised by Garland Publishing for next year and will be available through The Triangle Bookshop, 36 Bedford Square, London WC1.

I like to read a range of writing by an author in order to appreciate the ambience; for my summer's journey down the West Coast I was accompanied by Newby's other travel books — *On the Shores of the Mediterranean* (Picador) and *The Big Red Train Ride* (Penguin).

For those who want a British view of architectural life there is Appleyard's account of Richard Rogers' adventures to date, a thoroughly enjoyable story and one that rings true (Faber & Faber).

From time to time, I keep the stocking fillers bought for others and last January I delivered Arturo Barea's trilogy to Fred (a Mid-West architect and PhD aged 50) — only to reclaim it. Barea's classic covers Spanish history in the first 40 years of this century and includes the best eyewitness account of the siege of Madrid (1937-38). Fred had been to Guernica and the Basque country in 1984 without knowing anything of the bombing of April 26, 1937, nor of Picasso's famous painting, nor of the Spanish Civil War!

He had spent a year or so in Afghanistan, so my previous Christmas gift to him was Newby's *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush*. Barea, though generous, is careful and by subtle questioning discovered that Fred didn't read much. That settled matters, Barea came back to my shelves and was re-read with increased delight. The trilogy is autobiographical and called *The Forge* (pre-1914 Spain), *The Track* (Morocco in the 20s) and *The Clash* (The Civil War).

Long plane flights are always my excuse for ear plugs and a solid spell of bookworming. Peter Fleming's *Brazilian Adventure* kept me happy in mid-air on the way to Moscow. I recommend it to those readers lucky enough to be flying off to the ski slopes for New Year. I should explain that Brazil seemed to me to be a promised land in 1949 and the first sight of Kodak coloured slides (Bule Marx and Neymeyer) confirmed my resolve to immigrate on an ARIBA was obtained. I made a start on background reading. Fleming's spellbinding adventures being the first to fire my imagination. (Peter was brother to Ian "James Bond" Fleming.)

Reality hit home in 1950 with a failed thesis and the discovery that the Brazilians require emigrants to retake their exams in Portuguese. So, I have never seen Brazil or the Amazon other than through writers' eyes, but that prospect is one of the delights of being an armchair traveller, whether surreptitiously at the drawing board or openly by the log fire this Christmas holiday.

My personal stocking this year is filled with Jellco's *Landscape of Man and Multisus* *The English House*, available cheap at the RIBA bookshop.

Architects lock antlers in Stag Place contest

RICHARD Rogers, Terry Farrell and Arup Associates are heading a list of eight architects competing to design a £30 million redevelopment of London's Stag Place for developer Land Securities.

The other five invited contestants are Ahrends Burton & Koralek, Richard Horden, Kenzie Lovell Partnership, William Whitfield and Skidmore Owings & Merrill.

Land Securities has launched two separate competitions running in tandem to find a "fresh and original" approach to the redevelopment of the 2ha site in Victoria.

The first competition is for replacement buildings on the site of the soon-to-be-demolished Eland House (marked with an arrow in the photograph), occupied by the DoE.

The second competition is for a "creative design solution" to improve the large triangular piazza in front of Eland House.

Assessors are: Alex Gordon, Michael Metcalfe, John Partidge, Sir John Boynton and Ian Henderson.

Land Securities' last big architectural competition was the £30 million Grand Buildings scheme which attracted 287 entries but was branded a fiasco after the judges selected a scheme that was a replica of the facade of the existing building.

Richard Horden's scheme for Grand Buildings was shortlisted and singled out as "a strikingly original solution" but failed to make the final three. He is the only invitee for this scheme who entered for Grand Buildings.

William Whitfield, who has a respected track record in developments of this kind and is a keen conservationist of historic buildings, was chairman of the assessors in the Grand Buildings competition.

The Stag Place competition will be run in a single stage with up to three finalists being submitted to Land Securities for final selection.

The competition started this month and the winner will be announced in summer next year.

Transatlantic team for London Bridge City

D Y DAVIES are to work with Philip Johnson and John Burgee on the second phase of London Bridge City — the massive office development on the south bank of the Thames.

D Y Davies, one of the UK's three architect practices quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, are to implement Johnson & Burgee's designs for the site.

The instruction is D Y Davies' largest and should boost the firm's profits when work starts on site in the middle of next year. Burgee & Johnson will employ Davies, although the appointment was approved by the site's owner, the Kuwait-

owned St Martins Property Corporation.

St Martins has outline planning consent under a special development order for a 108,000sq m office scheme. This will cost at least £120 million to build.

"We're delighted," said David Davies, chairman and founder of D Y Davies. He expects to have several architects based in Johnson & Burgee's New York office to advise on the effects of UK construction regulations on design.

St Martins has yet to appoint an interior designer for the scheme.

Lasting material

CONCRETE that will last 500 years has been developed by Yakenaka & Co according to a report in the *Japan Economic Journal*.

Using two special ingredients, the company has produced a concrete so dense that it shuts out harmful substances in the atmosphere, and claims it has a life expectancy 10 times that of ordinary concrete.

Cardiff arts

THE Welsh Arts Council has commissioned theatre Consultants Carr & Angier to prepare a design study for Cardiff's proposed arts centre (News December 17).

Four sites are being considered. The favourite is in Cardiff's docklands.

Building output

NEW housebuilding, which increased by 10.7 per cent in the first nine months of this year over last year, has fuelled a 2.6 per cent rise in construction output according to the latest figures from the DoE.

Architect robbed

ARCHITECT Peter Ahrends was robbed at knifepoint at his Camden home last week.

Ahrends, a partner in Ahrends Burton & Koralek was held at knifepoint for half an hour by three men who forced their way into his house looking for cash, jewelry and a safe.

The three eventually fled taking Ahrends' car, two stereo systems and a video recorder.

Cladding bill

MORE than £2 million has been spent on repair work on the New Scotland Yard building in the last two years according to the Home Office.

The cladding replacement programme which started in 1985 has so far cost the Government £2,156,000.

Defects hope

HOUSES listed under the Housing Defects Act 1984 have received a massive vote of confidence with 29 of the 30 largest building societies saying they would still lend on properties designated.

News

Competition to plug urban design gap

URBAN design is the theme of the fifth RIBA international student design competition, which last year attracted more than 1,000 entries making it the largest architectural competition in the world.

"Demonstrate to Richard Rogers and his fellow jurors your skill as an urban designer", says the brief for the competition, which is called "New in the Old".

Entrants must design a building to fill a gap in an urban environment of their own choice — they can assume the removal of any buildings to create the gap.

The brief also requires that buildings should "connect the ceremonies of the space to the ceremonies of your design" and suggests that "a successful programme will probably be for a public building".

"Your buildings will be judged, not as mere facade

making, but against the total life of the city", it says.

First prize is £2,000, second £1,250 and third, £1,000. Closing date for entries is noon on May 1 1987 at the RIBA headquarters.

Other assessors include Courtenay Blackmore, Denis Serjeant and Graham Stirk. Blackmore directed the construction of Rogers' Lloyd's building. Serjeant is an architect and teacher and surveyor to the Royal Academy, while Stirk is an architect with the Richard Rogers Partnership.

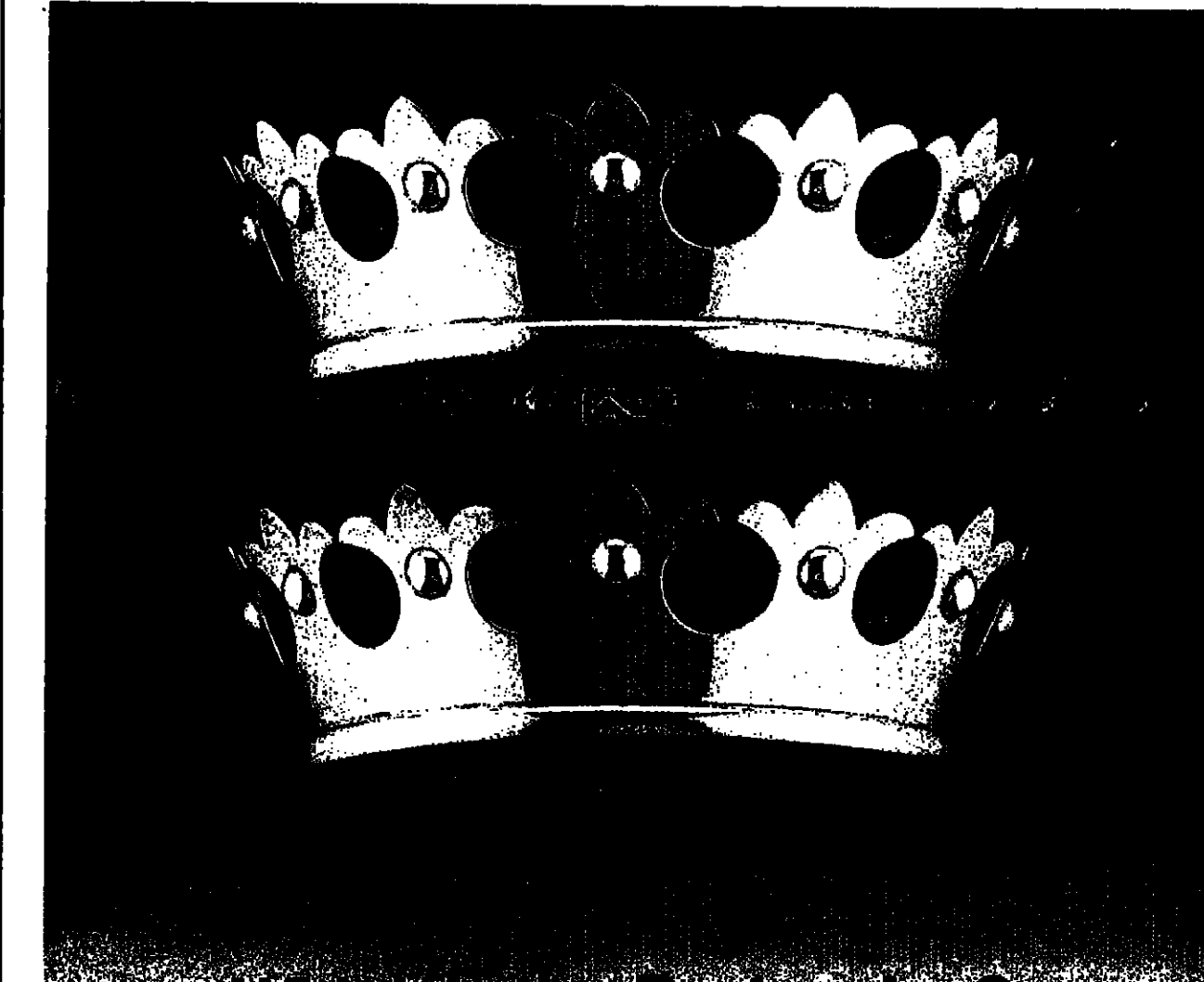
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Annual review

The year

January

THE year kicked off depressingly with the news that Huddersfield Polytechnic might join NELP on the closure list. It did. Neville Conder and ex-RIBA President Owen Luder picked up CBEs and RIBA drawings curator John Harris received an MBE in the New Year's honours list. Clive Nicholson Associates won the competition to design a £6 million replacement for Westminster Pier and the New Delhi Gandhi competition was launched. National Health Service architects finally settled their 12-year-old pay dispute and received up to £3,000 a year increase. The London Borough of Hackney decided it would take the lead role in setting up a central technical unit to continue the work of the Greater London Council's design staff. American Robert Venturi was chosen to design the extension for the National Gallery.



Robert Venturi won the National Gallery competition.

February

A GREY month was considerably brightened up by intimate details of Richard Rogers' private life being revealed in his biography. Readers were stunned to read about his sex life from the age of 13 and of his apparent inability to draw. Maguire & Murray won the competition to design a 100-room hall of residence for Oxford's Pembroke College. Design practice McCall took over architects Geoffrey Reid Associates. Sir Frederick Gibberd & Partners stumped up £1.3 million for the leaning roof in Liverpool's Roman Catholic cathedral. Rod Hackney hinted that he might run for the presidency of the RIBA. Peter Andrews was appointed professor of architecture at the Bartlett School and Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall took over the Cherry Garden Pier



Richard Rogers: intimate details.

March

SPRING was heralded in by extreme activity on the architecture front. Terry Farrell unveiled development plans for Charing Cross station. Ian Ritchie revealed plans for what could be the tallest office development in London. Sidell Gibson's winning entry for the Grand Buildings competition (with replica facade) was announced and Terry Farrell (again) applied for planning permission to build on top of the Savoy. NELP and Huddersfield polys announced they would challenge Government closure plans. The GLC was abolished. Arata Isozaki received the Royal Gold Medal. Fitzroy Robinson was called in to assist in the controversial £60 million Battersea Power Station development.

April

AFTER the disastrous fire at Hampton Court the Government was urged to take a tougher line with property under its control. BD publishes its first Top 100 — a listing of practices in order of size. BDP came off the clear winners. Norman Foster's £500-million-plus Hongkong & Shanghai Bank headquarters began trading, while in England Farrell's Henley Regatta headquarters was officially opened by the Queen. D Y Davies became the first practice to go public, while BD were the first to reveal plans for a major development at Spitalfields. The Limehouse Basin was officially launched, supported by David Owen, Colin Amery, Rod Hackney and others. German architects Gottfried Böhm won the 1986 Pritzker Prize.

May

THE DoE tried to block funding for the Coln Street Development on London's South Bank but later changed its mind. Peter Palumbo renewed his bid to develop asstie at Mansion House with James Stirling as architect. Lotyn's great-nephew Nicholas Ridley replaced Kenneth Baker as environment secretary. The RIBA came under attack over delays in its nuclear study. Ian Ritchie's scheme for the world's tallest tower was shelved when Tower Hamlets switched to SDP/Alliance control, while plans for the world's biggest shopping and leisure complex in the Black Country were unveiled by architect developer Igor Kolodotschko.

June

THE battle began over the Channel Tunnel's effect on central London led by Lambeth. Westminster said "yes" to Michael Manser's plans to convert St John's Lodge in Regents Park. "Probably the world's largest design group" was formed, when designers Stewart McColl Associates and architects Covell Matthews joined hands. Andrew Derbyshire became the 27th architectural knight, while

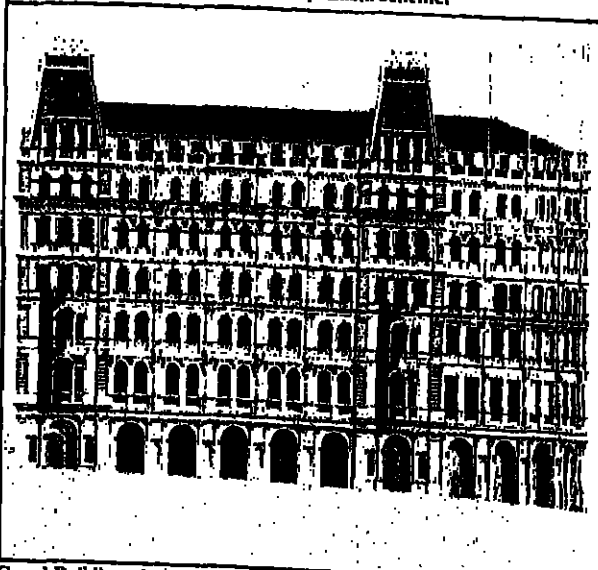
architects in private practice enjoyed a summer boom. Prince Charles presented the first The Times/RIBA community enterprise awards, which promised to become an annual event. American Sam Wanamaker won his 15-year fight to build a reproduction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the south bank of the Thames when Southwark council pulled out of a court case. BD revealed that former environment secretary Patrick Jenkin was not involved in the decision to allow Selfert's development at Limehouse.

July

ANNOUNCEMENT of the "Building Communities" conference — Rod Hackney, Lord Scarman and Prince Charles would be the star turns. Arata Isozaki was presented with RIBA Gold Medal. A competition was launched for exhibition gallery design at RIBA headquarters. South African anti-apartheid architect Hans Schrömer fled to Britain after the Institute of South African Architects' headquarters was raided by security police and files removed. The RIBA president refused to allow him to address council but he spoke to SAG and overseas committee and called for ISA's exclusion from UIA congress in Brighton. Jonathan Glancey resigned as editor of The Architect and was replaced by David Pearce. RIBA City Wise conference was a damp squib lived up by speakers Ken Livingstone, Alfie Wood and Denise Scott-Brown. The Hull Cudat (Community Urban Development Assistance Team) was rejected by locals. Raymond Andrews was RIBA Council's nomination for next year's presidency. LET brought in MacCormac Jamieson & Pritchard to upgrade its Spitalfields design.

August

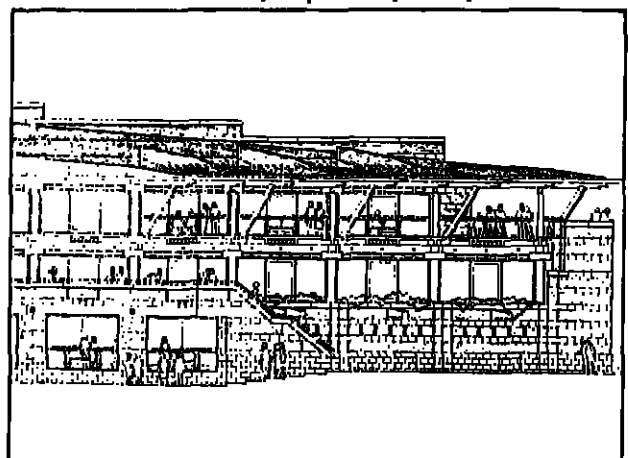
CITY of London chief architect and planner Stuart Murphy retired (pushed by his conser-



Grand Buildings then and now: Sidell Gibson won the competition in March to design 236 other entrants.

September

SCIENTIFIC dismantling of Roman Point uncovered serious defects in its construction BD exclusively revealed. John Harris resigned as curator of RIBA Drawings Collection, ostensibly over remarks by the president, but really over plans to move it to RIBA headquarters. Selfert was announced as designer of a scheme for Spitalfields for Beazer Property. RIBA scrapped plans for Hull Cudat but said it might be back if invited. It never heard of again. Greenwich council opposed Canary Wharf. Whitley McKay-Lewis unveiled



Millon Keynes practice Denton, Tunley, Scott won the Aston University competition, above. Maguire and Murray won the Pembroke College, Oxford, competition and one for a visitors centre at Cheston, Castle, below.



The silly season was Architectural Review's report of post-modernism's death and replacement by "The New Spirit". This "new spirit" wouldn't impress clients, predicted Piers Gough. British Waterways revealed that Selfert & Partners had been asked to redesign the Limehouse Basin scheme.

October

UNOFFICIAL contender Rod Hackney stepped into the presidential election ring and "Foster Rogers Stirling" opened at the Royal Academy. Both events ensured the architectural profession hogged the limelight for the rest of the year. Flak began to fly in the presidential election with Hackney firing a lethal salvo at David Atwell, while official candidate Raymond Andrews questioned whether Rod could do two jobs at once. Hackney strengthened his election platform by teaming up with David Rod. He promised to bring back John Harris as consultant to the Drawings Collection, and president Larry Rolland attacked Rod for attacking RIBA staff. BD

revealed that Jim Stirling landed one of the buildings in Canary Wharf scheme, at home £1.5 million richer after flotation of his firm on the stock exchange. There was one week when managed to avoid printing anything about either Hackney or Andrews but this was just a phoney war. The following week the tone of Andrews' campaign grew shriller and he called Hackney a "fool". Andrews announced his resignation. The Johnson, doyen of US architects, emerged as the architect in phase two of London Bridge

November

LEON Krier revealed his to a classical master plan for Spitalfields to the sort of academy must have turned the rejected Backwith brothers and the architects, Richard MacCormac and Fitzroy Robinson, given it. November, BD scooped everybody with the first picture of Koha Pedersen Fox's design for Canary Wharf Tower. We also first to mention Piers Charles' new inner city plan. And we published a comprehensive guide to community architecture and a review of movement. Andrews' checks campaign grew hysterical. Cardiff where he and Hackney met for the first time in public debate. Banging his fist on the table, Andrews called Hackney "a charlatan". The two continued to clash once more at Portl Place while further resignations — David Pearce, editor of The Architect and Hilary King, vice officer — revealed the unrest at RIBA headquarters.

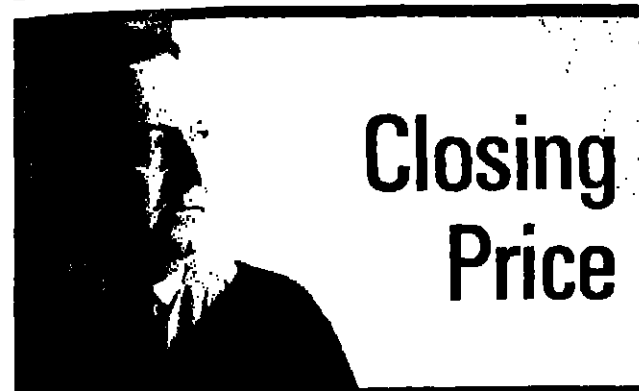


St Rod, the dream comes true.

December

THE "Building Communities" conference made sure that architecture continued to be a topic for the media. Rod Hackney's chairmanship of the conference, as the patron saint of community architecture, revealed the sort of influence he could wield as RIBA president. The conference was a success. It was "bottom up" all the way with Prince Charles calling for a return to Classicism and John Barnes castigating the conference sponsor Regalian. Terry Farrell got consent from the minister for his much-valued Charing Cross station scheme — some consolation for having been shown the door by the City Corporation's court of common council over his Alban Gate scheme for London Wall. Conservationists and developers clashed over the Lutyens building in the City.

Infill



Closing Price

Well, well, my very last column — there were times when I thought I'd not reach it. Over one thousand letters from the Highest in the Land down to that dreadful TINA woman — at least the signatures should fetch something. To fit a few more in, I'm just including my answers this time with a couple of exceptions.

NOW it's patently clear I'm there, what is the most efficacious role for me to take? R H, Macclesfield.

Rather like melting down lead scrap for toy soldiers — keep up the heat and let the scum rise to the top. Then enable others to remove it. Two points — don't believe the values put on No 66, and don't imagine that the likes of Davids Allford, Price and Pleydell-Bouverie would ever dream of lunching in Portland Place.

Inner city decay requires social dentists not lock-jaw makers. Every city in Britain of over 250,000 had lost population by 1980 with the exception of Plymouth. Where on earth do you think the people have gone, Sir?

So the Government is removing the spherical reactor at Windscale and destroying the giant halls at Fylingdales — both fine images in otherwise boring landscapes. Rum behaviour in an orn second-rate railway stations and cinemas are almost sacrosanct.

Why not site Sizewell at Windscale?

With the present Government threatening the Ordnance Survey and the Labour Opposition threatening to outlaw hunting, the day-to-day surveillance of lands normally guarded against outsiders will become increasingly thin. On-the-spot weather forecasting has gone and aid to the footpath people is pitiful. Great tracts of Britain may soon become secret "lost" land — someone should be told.

No, I don't like the New Underground Stations facilities — the make-up is too thick, narrowing platforms, passage ways and stairs. Also the flattening of the arches not only reduces the height but makes me feel more aware of the weight above. However, the worst result is the near disappearance of the coloured route signs — Euston-Brown etc "Cockfosters" looks strange to

foreigners — have you noticed how many now ask directions on the Tube?

The red rose symbol looks soft to me and is hard to reproduce, reduce or stencil — what the hell's wrong with the Red Flag?

"Government to force firms to scrap North Sea platforms" — Independent, November 13.

Pity — they're some of the finest buildings we've produced in the last decade. No doubt their owners are not prepared to look after them. Perhaps a cause for a new conservation trust (Simon Jenkins please note). Thinking of those clever old men, why can't they lay an underwater pipeline from Poole Harbour (Whyche Farm), to Southampton Water (Fawley Refinery), rather than cut a vast swathe through the New Forest? No doubt the compensation to the three or four landowners involved is generous.

Favourite ads: "Computer versus buildings, December 86, a major international conference on how to alleviate the stress placed on existing buildings by computer and communications facilities, and how to make new buildings 'future-proof'."

How about "Future aspirations — proof buildings"? Timber Bridges, 1986: "Bridges for use in rural areas can have horizontal rails while those in urban areas or town centres can have vertical balusters."

Dear Editor, Enough (seasonally adjusted) is enough. I am not the only one to feel that now is the time for a columnist who writes his/her own column. Action not words is called for. I am not without influence. N.D.W. Great Russell St. W.C.1.

Cedric Price

We hope to persuade Norman Willis to begin a column shortly — Ed.

Footnote

Free-standing handled foot-copier with side flash based on Tedington Manor, (Glos), and the adjacent "Law Court" Street's Parish Church, east by the Stiles Foundry, Mill Street, Evesham.



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The Editor's Comment



apparent difficulties of getting results in the City were emphasised by the farce over the proposals to replace one of the dullard buildings of London Wall.

Overall, however, the outlook for the profession is not bad — mainly because the public is increasingly coming to see the role of the architects as designers, enabler and catalyst, whether he or she is working with a local community, with a retailing chain or a speculative developer. We are moving away from the years when the main requirement of the architect was to be able to fudge a way through regulations, and never mind what the building looked like.

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9. Manual of Graphic Techniques 4 by Tom Porter and Sue Goodman. The latest volume in this series uses drawings to show every aspect of development and presentation of plans, from interiors to elevations, site sections to sectional perspectives. There are black and white photographs and line drawings throughout. Price £9.85.

10. Specification 85 by David Martin. Eighty-second edition of this annual reference source for architects and specifiers in the construction industry. Volume 5 is a commissioned new volume devoted entirely to specification clauses. The six volumes set is supplied in a library box. Price £57.50.

11. How Architects Get Work by G. Golzen. Existing practices, as well as those thinking of taking the plunge into setting up on their own, will find this book stimulating and lively reading. Price £10.95 (paperback).

12. The Interior Design Workbook: A Job Record and Diary by David Fry. FSA RIBA. Fills a considerable gap in providing interior designers, with a working tool which sets out all the stages of an interior design project. Price £10.95.

13. Building Design Easybrief. A compendium of the technical pages published in Building Design under that name between 1983 and 1985. Covering a wide range of design methods, techniques & materials. Prepared by architects Haverstock Associates the book will be an invaluable aid to anyone whose business is designing buildings. Price £17.00 incl. p&p.

14. LONDON ENERGY GROUP DATA BOOK AND DIARY 1987. A slim pocket diary — month to month with 12 pages of data on energy in buildings compiled by Jack Peach ex Technical Secretary of CIBSE. A first edition in 1987 this could be your most valuable acquisition for it contains most of the U-values, degree days, appliance efficiencies and other energy data you need from day to day. The project has financial support from RIBA and CIBSE. Order now to reserve your copy for November delivery. Price £4.60 inc VAT (Discounted prices available for multiples of ten copies or more with practice or company logo as an extra).

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19. Archi-letes Postcards 2 sets of 8 colour cartoons by Louis Hellman. Set 1: Wright, Le Corbusier (twice), Aalto, Foster, Graves, Mies and Stirling. Set 2: Gaudi, Marchionni, Ralph Erskine, Bruce Goff, Charles Moore, Leon Krier, Terry Farrell and Philip Johnson. Price: Set 1, £2.50; Set 2, £2.50.

20. Monstrous Carburcles. A cartoon guide to architecture. Edited by Charles Knevit. Price £4.95 (inc. p&p).

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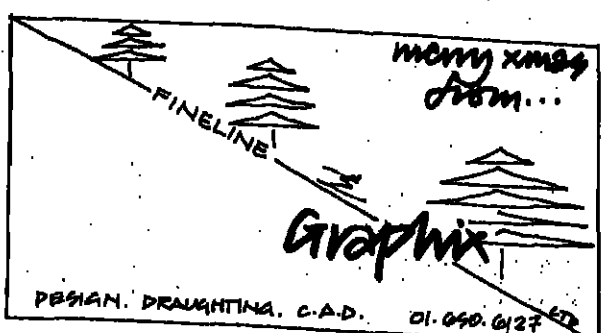
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Review

Final thoughts on the Academy

As the "Fosters, Rogers, Stirling" exhibition draws to a close on December 21, *BD* publishes the last reviews.

Christopher Knight

WHICH is the more star-struck — the Royal Academy or its three superstars themselves, dazzled by their own brilliance in an otherwise apparently starless sky?

The public is led to believe in them as supermen able to conceive the design and direct the execution of giant projects single-handed. But a good building, as Corbusier said, is many men thick. Here we see nobody else.

Yet in the 1980s the individual designer has less control, and the creation of a building of architectural quality is more than ever a collective process. Post-Modern tackiness is a feeble reaction to this.

In this show the public is given no explanation of the design process in general or of the particular works displayed, ordained and constrained as they were by clients, cash, and politics. The three built projects at least demonstrate that compromise is not inevitable, or can at least be well-concealed. The three unbuilt schemes tell another story if you stop to think.

The exhibition is subliminal propaganda for an anachronistic concept of the architect as artist, yet it does nothing to explain the architectural thought which crystallises the client's brief. The public can easily understand and worldly constraints while remaining blind to the architecture.

Christopher Knight is an architect in West London.

Tony Forward

THREE cheers for the Royal Academy — and for the exhibition sponsors — for putting on a major architectural exhibition which is attracting the general public and not just professionals.

Foster's show is brilliantly attractive — not only the immaculate models that one expects, but beautiful images of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank changing rhythmically on an array of five large screens, accompanied by evocative Chinese music. No wonder the seats opposite the screens are filled by a contented clientele, their senses soothed by seductive sound and vision. But Foster's second room is the more interesting. Here, again with the aid of superb models, we are reminded of a setback which occurred in 1985 when the BBC chickened out of building the new broadcasting centre.

Lost opportunity is also apparent in Rogers' room, in the spectacular model of "London as it could be", his bold idea of a pedestrian route from Piccadilly Circus to Waterloo shows what conviction could achieve — but given the prevailing commercial context what hope is there of implementation?

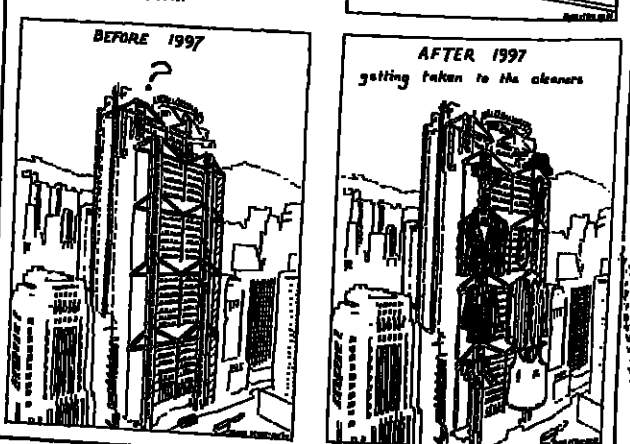
As for Stirling, the massive mock-up of the Staatsgalerie is a good appetizer for anyone who hasn't been to Stuttgart. But the design for the National Gallery extension makes one hungry for a building which, alas, we shall not see. Perverse some of the details may be — the heavy column, for example, slap in front of the entrance doors — yet Stirling's scheme shows a



All a question of hygiene

In response to your invitation for readers to review the Royal Academy exhibition, the following cartoon trilogy is on the theme of personal hygiene, James Urring.

James Urring practices as an architect in London.



subtlety, wit and imagination which Venturi will surely find hard to rival.

Kenneth Lynn

THIS is the exhibition through which the public's currently jaundiced view of architecture is to be transformed into something more appreciative.

By all accounts the public is giving it every chance, thronging the three galleries in the hopeful search for a common wavelength on which to tune into this widely-debated and much-maligned commodity, and to reassess its relevance to their lives. If only the exhibition could meet them half-way.

Three stars shine in the octagonal ante-room, Rogers', Stirling's and Foster's potted biographies shed little light on the remote worlds of their displays.

In Rogers' room, remoteness is the key, with its anti-like population crowding the wide river-terraces of a London-as-it-could-be with the South Bank divested of Hungerford Bridge and embellished with a spidery skyline structure wildly out of scale with its function and the avowed humanistic aims of the proposal.

Stirling assures us that the only way to appreciate the

Staatsgalerie is to visit the actual building. The giant backlit photographs are almost sufficiently alive with colour and movement to give the impression of being there, but the illusion is fatally compromised. The scale of the building is confusing. Surely that undulating wall should be twice as high as it is, and the monumentality of the cladding is dwarfed by the size of the coloured-pipe "hand"-rails whose 12-inch diameter not even Big Jim could comfortably grasp. The architectural allusions are too arcane for the thousands of visitors who pass daily through its repertoire of architectural in-jokes.

Finally Foster, whose hi-tech expertise fails to illuminate his texts. A multi-screen slide-show recreates the bustling atmosphere of Hong Kong, and semi-oriental muzak accompanies the majestic rise of the mega-structure. The huge model is perched perversely high, converting the customary bird's-eye view into a frustrating worm's-eye view.

A mature woman, pondering the rotating model of Lloyd's, rejected the palliative proffered by her young companion.

"Well", came the last-ditch attempt at justification, "it's designed to last for only 50 years".

Kenneth Lynn is an architect in Chatham.

Scorpio



An arachnid guide to 1986

Quotes of the year

"I wanted to be an opera singer." — James Stirling at Colorado.

"Designing buildings can be so stressful." — Robert Venturi at the Savoy.

"I believe there is still a future for stone — for if I can dress stone why can't others?" Nicholas Ridley at the RIBA conference.

"We are satisfied that our approach to the project will provide an appropriate building." The BBC on the designs for its new headquarters.

"I think it is time to resurrect the principles by which classical Greece operated." — Prince Charles at the "Building Communities" conference.

"... the Rambo architecture of Europe's tallest building," Ian Latham on Canary Wharf Tower.

"It's a clear case of money versus architecture." — Stuart Lipton on rival designs for Spitalfields.

Fashions

In
Dealing floors
Going public
Brasseries
Inner cities
UDCs
The green belt
Fund-raising
Community groups
Foster's office furniture
New spirit
Surrey Docks
Loft conversions

Out
Walkways
Labour authorities
Cocktail bars
Covent Garden
The PSA
Conservationists
Grants
ISAA
The Barcelona Chair
Post-modernism
The Isle of Dogs
Jazzis

Disasters

Hull Cudat
The Architect
Portsmouth estate
Grand Buildings
The M25
The Roundhouse
Leicester Square
The BBC

Triumphs

Community architecture
Building Design
Divis demolition
Aston University
The M25
The Alhambra
Charing Cross
Covent Garden

People

In
Nicholas Ridley
Leon Krier
Coin Street builders
Paul Getty II
Brian Barnes
Rod Hackney
James Stirling
Sam Webb
Jane Priestman

Editor's note: These lists are, of course, entirely reversible.

Messages

Farewell

GLC architects
Stuart Murphy
Ronan Point
NELP
Huddersfield
David Pearce
Jonathan Glancey
Hilary King
Eleneta (briefly)
John Harris (maybe)

Hello

The Lloyd's building
Hongkong Bank
The London Residuary Body
Acanthus
Inner City Aid
Thomas Cooke
Clare Gallery
USM quotes
London Advisory Committee
Philip Johnson

Quotes I wish I'd heard

"It's a nice low-rise scheme." G Ware Travelstead.

"Modernism... I like it!" — Prince Charles.

"Everything's under control." — PSA.

"This design is faultless." — Sherban Cantacuzino.

"You'll see something well before Christmas." — Bob Venturi.

"No, president." — Patrick Harrison.

Statistics



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PLAYING WITH PHILOSOPHY

Christmas is synonymous with toys. Brian Hatton, in festive spirit, muses on their architectural implications.

"I THINK that children generally do exert influence on their toys, that their choice is directed by inclinations and desires, which, however, vague and unformulated, are nevertheless, very real. Still, I would not deny the contrary, that is to say, that toys act upon the child, particularly upon one with literary or artistic inclinations. One would hardly be surprised to see a child of that sort, whose parents take him to the theatre, already coming to consider the theatre as beauty in its most entrancing form."

Those words were written by Charles Baudelaire in his essay of 1859, "L'art du joujou" (The art of the toy). They remind me of remarks attributed to Churchill on the rebuilding of the House of Commons: "We influence the shape of the buildings around us, and they in turn influence us."

It is not mistaken then to see toys as the imaginative architecture of childhood and to look among them for signs of the obsessions and dilemmas of the adult environment.

Although Baudelaire went on in his essay to discuss those "philosophical toys" using scientific optical devices that prefigured the cinematograph, his reference to the theatre as the epitome of art then was germane, for there was perhaps no "ambitious" toy of the 19th century so popular among well-to-do families as the juvenile drama, performed in darkened sitting-rooms within cardboard proscenium and printed cut-out figures.

Such miniature theatre was a toy within a toy, for it placed within the game of architecture the game of play-acting, and the cry that all the world's a stage referred in this case to all the toy world. For the striking thing about the toy-world as we find it in such toy museums as Pollock's in Scala Street (which grew originally out of a factory for toy theatres) and the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood is the degree to which it replicates every aspect of the adult world. If this universality is not reflected in most toyshops, it is a measure of the cliché-ridden impoverishment of today's commercial imagination, obsessed with Barbie-Doll look-alikes and Star Wars clones.

Even where a wider range of life is evoked by toys, the imitation is literal, stereotypical, and stifling to imaginative participation.

This was the criticism made of modern toys by Roland Barthes in the essay he included on them in his anthology *Mythologies*. For Barthes the curse of toys today is that they always mean something, their inbuilt meanings foreclosing on the child's imagination, defining identities in advance and determining the social anticipations of the user. "Faced with this world of faithful and complicated objects," the child can only identify himself as owner, as user, never as creator, he does

not invent the world, he uses it; there are, prepared for him, actions without adventure, without wonder, without joy."

Barthes wants toys to liberate children from readymade social meanings by means of freely adaptive and inventive bricolage, subject to no sovereignty but an autonomous imagination bent on discovery: "The merest set of blocks, provided it is not too refined, implies a very different learning of the world; the child does not in any way create meaningful objects, it matters little to him whether they have an adult name; the actions he performs are not those of a user but a demurge. He creates forms which walk, which roll, he creates life, not property."

However, in one respect, Barthes' remarks seem limited in a way characteristic of when he wrote them (the mid 50s). I wonder if he would still hold them today in an era of "post-structuralism".

It is an aspect with bearings not only on toys and toy architecture, but on the real thing. It is to do with the abstraction implicit in his preference for simple blocks. For it is not necessary, in order to escape the confinements of social stereotyping, to resort to what Barthes termed the "zero-degree" of signification, that is, abstraction.

The imagination can subvert, divert, pervert, invert, and revert the sign; it can take one thing intended for a purpose and use it as or for something else. In the words of the American artist Jasper Johns: "One thing used as another, something made of another". The cases of Picasso making a bull's head of a bicycle saddle and handlebars and casting a monkey from moulds of a toy motor car are well-known, but it is the kind of thing that any imaginative child does.

Of course, if a child does, as I did when young, turn a toy tractor upside down to become a galley or paddleboat, you may say that one social meaning is merely being changed to another. But no negation can be complete; what counts is the increment in what might be called the coefficient of imaginative sovereignty — and sheer joy — that comes with such a recycling.

Behind this might be discerned a reflection on the debate about Modernism and its after-

math. Frank Lloyd Wright, as is well known, was given Froebel toy blocks as a child and later admitted their influence. There is no doubt of the "philosophic" value of their abstract architectural forms; moreover, abstract blocks of a comparable kind were developed as toys by the Bauhaus.

Yet a reading of the childhood obsessions of a surrealist such as Max Ernst would reveal a very different relation to toys and their meanings from that of Wright; one much closer, I

think, to those magic parlour entertainments like the toy theatre which influenced the imagination of 19th century symbolists such as Baudelaire, and which appear again in the "boxes" of Joseph Cornell — an imagination much closer to some of the contemporary architectural manifestations misguidedly termed "post-modern".

As an example I mention the unmistakable similarity between last year's Nato exhibition "Gamma City" and a toy grotto

of the kind adapted by commercial stores from central European Baroque culture and given an onerous shock in the Surrealist group shows of the 30s and 40s designed by Marcel Duchamp.

There was another sense in which the Gamma show bore a strong resemblance to toys such as complex dolls' houses and toy theatres, in that it made movables and furnishings, not walls, the catalysts and promoters of architectural space.

A glance at the magnificent



A time for giving and reinforcing my stereotypes.



Wings and characters from toy theatre sheets in Pollock's Toy Museum.

collection of houses and theatres in the Bethnal Green museum will indicate that, for the child playing with these toys, the whole interest and motivation in them springs from the fictions, ceremonies and narratives conjured among the equipment and miniature utensils of the interior. Spatial division of the dolls' houses at Bethnal Green is quite rudimentary, even when the exterior is grandly designed and exquisitely built.

The priority of the interior narrative in toy architecture was something that was rather overlooked in a notable competition for architects dolls' houses run by *Architectural Design* a couple of years ago and published as *AD* No 53.

One of the few entrants to identify the priority in dolls' houses was Francis de Vallee, who wrote: "It quickly became evident to me that it is the contents of the dolls' house that forms the basis of the child's games and the stories he acts out with his dolls. It was therefore obvious that the whole process of architectural creation had to be reversed, in that the first step was to choose the objects that would create the living environ-

ment and only then could I design a structure to house them in."

De Vallee was also one of the few entrants to explore the possibility that toys do not need to be representational or in scale; that a soap holder can be a TV set, a spring staircase, a cheese grater a fireplace.

This adaptation, to me, is the essence of toymaking as it is of art. One of the few others to do this was Jean Nouvel, who made a folding tool-box into a portable doll's house. On the other hand, the sense of private narrative can be elaborated to the point of ritual, as it was in an exquisite Japanese entry, which looked like a shrine or tabernacle. If this recalled any kind of toy house, it was like a cinderella's dwelling in the form of a primordial dwelling of the kind discussed by Joseph Rykwert in *On Adam's House in Paradise*.

The problem with the *AD* competition, reflecting perhaps its historical moment, was precociousness. There is still room for exploration in this area, and I would suggest a competition set today ought to stipulate a brief for an inner city dolls' house, using recycled materials and with a collective function, for instance a whole dolls' tower block with many flats — say one for each child in a nursery school. It would be interesting to know if the Soviets, at the height of the Constructivist passion for collective dwellings, ever explored the possibility of a "new type of dolls' house" along the lines of the blocks designed by Ginsburg and others. Or is the doll's house incorrigibly bound to bourgeois individualism? The winner of the *AD* competition, a gilded tower by Mike Gold, not only celebrated individualism, but the ego itself, for it was not a doll's house at all, but a Wendy House the size of a wardrobe.

Although the *AD* competition was ostensibly triggered by the publisher's fruitless search for a good doll's house for his daughter, it turned out to be an opportune moment. For it has to be said that much post-modern domestic architecture, from Venturi through Jeremy Dixon to the Jencks residence, has about it an unmistakably nursery or toy-town flavour. It is as if, in reacting against Miesian abstraction, these architects felt that they had to resort to virtually infantile caricature and overscaling of representational features to make their point.

This is by no means the first time infantilism has appeared in architecture. Anyone trying to understand the domestic and Garden City movements in Edwardian architecture ought to begin with a good read of Kenneth Graham's *Wind in the Willows*. Ratty, Badger, and Toad would have made ideal clients for Voysey, Baillie-Scott, and Lutyens respectively.

But the idea that serious design could look like a toy as well as a toy might look like design was not absent also from the Modern Movement. One of the directors of Peter Behrens'

firm AEG declared "an electric motor should look like a birthday present". Primitivism is a theme long explored by both art and architectural historians. But whereas artists such as Paul Klee and Lionel Feininger made explicit their debts to children's art and experience, and an artist-designer such as the Dadaist (and remember that "Dada" meant "rocking-horse") and Paul Gauguin spoke of going back beyond European and Greek art "to the Dada of my nursery" Kiri Schwitters could make his great Merzbau into a kind of megastructure of gothic grotesques, harking back to the toy industries of the Black Forest and Nuremberg. There have been few open admissions from architects of inspiration from childhood imagination.

The expressionists were an exception, but few of their ideas, such as Bruno Taut's presentation in *Frühlicht* magazine of allotment huts as proletarian Wendy Houses, got very far.

My point is not that architects aren't influenced by childhood ideas, but that they don't readily admit it. It is arguable, for instance, that the most childlike architectural movement at present is the hi-tech work of architects such as Richard Rogers. Is it really much more than a fascination with Meccano and bits that "work"?

If one goes to a toyshop one sees in caricature and miniature the whole dilemma of contemporary architectural culture. Representation of the built environment in toydom falls into two incompatible categories. On the one hand there is the deathless iconography of late Victorian England: land of steam railways, parish churches, and timber halls. On the other hand there is the cacophony of pseudo-technology: gizmos, space invaders, programmable robots, and computer graphics whose only iconography or human reference is to a sort of juvenile Mad Max. If anybody doesn't believe that there is a deep crisis in the culture, take a trip to a toyshop.

There are some toys that have tried to resolve the cultural schizophrenia and the Lego firm makes one of them. It recently organised an exhibition of structures built by invited architects under a title from Le Corbusier, "Architecture is a Magnificent Game". The results were astonishingly varied and inventive. Yet I have to say that none escaped a certain stilted quality that seems endemic to readymade systems.

In the end the complaint of Barthes, that too many manufactured toys tend towards stereotypicality, holds. It is as getting beyond readymade and prefabricated — modules — whether they are structural components, as in hi-tech, or packaged signifiers and semiotic components, as in post-modern.

If toys are ceasing to refer to real life, architecture is approaching the condition of a toy, and a not very philosophical one at that.

English dolls' house, 1940.

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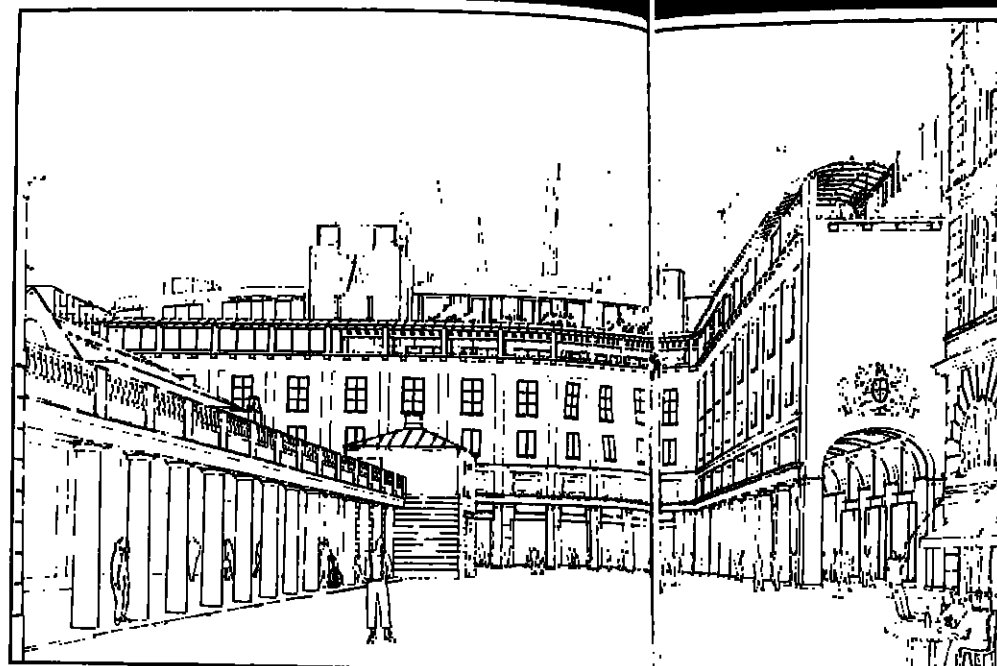
Annual review

BUILDINGS OF THE YEAR

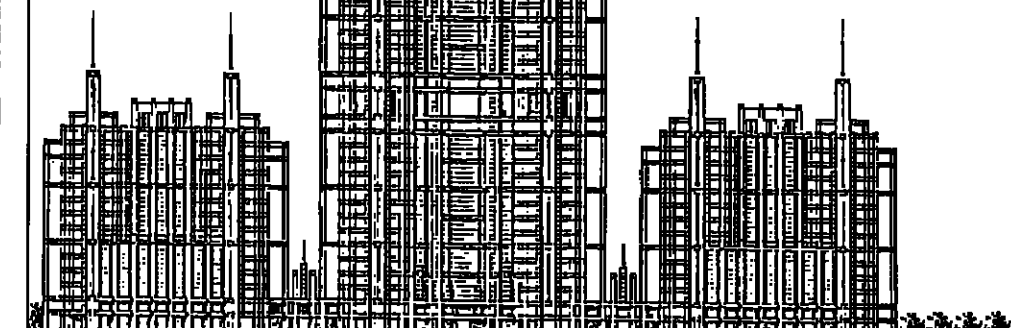


Jeremy Dixon's masterful proposal for the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden (right), a competition he won with Building Design Partnership, await planning approval and funding. The scheme will update the opera house facilities and backstage areas, reinstate a colonnade in the north-east corner of the piazza, provide a new entrance and grand spiral stair and shopping and office space for rental.

Richard Rogers & Partners' new headquarters for Lloyd's of London (left) was completed to a somewhat mixed reception, apart, that is, from a sycophantic special number of the *Architectural Review*. The building is nonetheless a tremendous achievement for both architects and builders and represents a solitary symbol in the City of London of the potential of late 20th century architecture. Magnificent models by Tetra of Lloyd's are featured in the "Foster, Rogers, Stirling" show at the Royal Academy that closes on Sunday.



The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (above) was completed by Powell & Moya opposite Westminster Abbey. Elegant and dignified externally, there was criticism that the interior spaces and finishes didn't match up to the significance of the site and functions of the building.



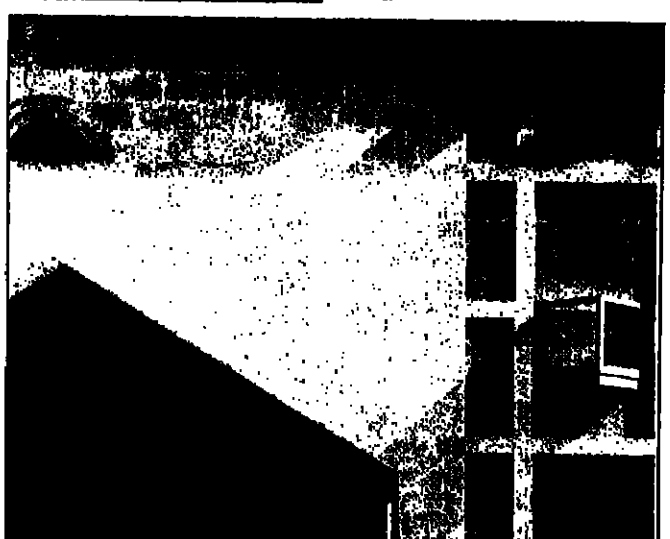
BD chanced upon detailed proposals for Canary Wharf Tower, the 260m centrepiece of the massive £3 billion development in the Isle of Dogs which now looks set to go ahead.

Designed by New York architects Kohn Pedersen Fox, who claim somewhat naively that their inspiration comes from the Houses of Parliament, this will be Europe's tallest tower, half as high again as the NatWest tower.



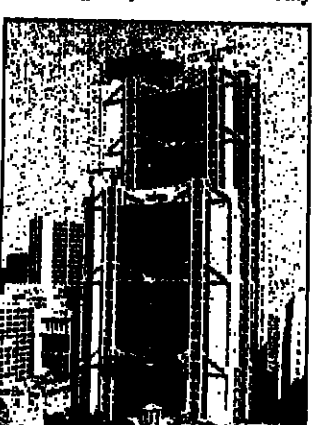
Peter Palmbo bounced back after the rejection of his Alice tower at Mansions House with twin proposals by James Stirling, Michael Wilford & Associates, one of which retained the corner Mappin and Webb building (left) at the expense of a squat tower at the back of the site.

Stirling is currently adjusting the scheme to account for overshadowing objections from neighbouring building owners.

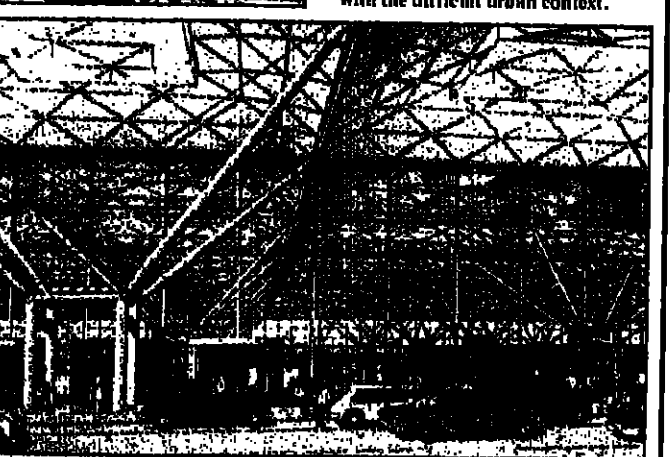


The Clive Gallery for the Turner collection at the Tate (above), designed by James Stirling, Michael Wilford & Associates, was finally completed and the rich collection is currently being hung for Royal opening in the Spring. The Clive is the best new gallery in London for many years and it will doubtless draw huge crowds to the Tate. The project is the first phase of Stirling's grand plan for the New Museums to be built incrementally over the next decade, resulting in a complex of a scale that matches Stirling's international status.

Foster Associates finished the spectacular Hongkong & Shanghai Bank (left), a magnificent and necessarily expensive combination of craftsmanship and technology. They unveiled proposals for the terminal at Stansted airport (below), a building type that seems to offer Foster the ideal vehicle for his architectural preoccupation.



The ill-fated BNC radio headquarters in Langham Place by Foster Associates was shown in public, long after the project's cancellation in favour of a package deal on the White City site. The Royal Academy show featured numerous trial missing models revealing the pains to which the practice had gone to come to terms with the difficult urban context.



CIVIC SHIELD UPDATE

SPECIAL FEATURE

TRYDAN DE CYMRU
SOUTH WALES
ELECTRICITY

Civic Shield gets the thumbs up from Wales and West.

Of the 3,000 or so dwellings owned by Wales and West Housing Association, the 36 flats and 10 houses at Ynysybwll, near Pontypridd, were a cause for concern.

The severe weather conditions in this Welsh valley had made the mould and condensation problems even worse.

So it was these 46 dwellings which Wales and West chose as their pilot scheme for adopting the Electricity Board's Civic Shield Award.

As is usual with this scheme, the work involved minimum fuss and disturbance so it wasn't necessary for the tenants to be moved out. In just two months, from January to March 1983, all 46 homes had been upgraded to the Electricity Board's Civic Shield Award standards.

By converting the homes to the Economy 7 tariff, improving the insulation, installing new style heaters and converting the water



heating to Economy 7, they became warm and comfortable with affordable running costs — plus very happy tenants and an ecstatic housing manager into the bargain.

Consequently, Wales and West actually found themselves faced with a waiting list for homes which had previously been as hard to let as they were to heat!

Their pleasure at the cost-effectiveness of the whole package — from installation right through

to operation — speaks for itself: by 1985, all Wales and West's 800 dwellings in the South Wales Electricity Board area had been upgraded in accordance with DEN 3 guidelines and had received the Civic Shield Award.

In fact, they have now completed the upgrading of all their electrically heated homes.

As usual, the homes weren't the only things we converted!

Now these tenants are the envy of all their friends and relations.

After hearing about Civic Shield's success from the South Wales District Energy Marketing Engineer, Monmouth District Council decided to install an Economy 7 heating package in one of their biggest problem areas — pre-fabricated homes with no proper heating system at all.

The homes were freezing and, like most buildings of this type, there was the added problem in that the thin concrete external walls required extensive repair.

The Civic Shield Award Scheme, with its comprehensive insulation package and Economy 7 heating and hot water, was the ideal solution.

The lofts were insulated and draught-proofing was fitted round doors and windows. And lining the inner surface of the walls with insulation board not only overcame the problem of heat loss, it also covered up the repairs.

This insulation, combined with the introduction of the Economy 7 tariff, new-style storage heaters and the specially insulated Economy 7 hot water cylinders, has now made these homes and their tenants beautifully warm and comfortable.

In fact, as this happy couple tell us, "All our friends and relations are very envious. Now they come round to us for a warm!"

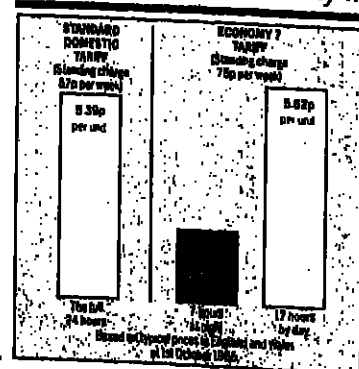
Monmouth District Council are so pleased, they'll consider the Civic Shield solution on all their pre-fabricated homes in future. To date, they have implemented it in over 300 homes, pre-fabricated and



otherwise, at 32 different locations — and there are more to come.

CASE HISTORY: MONMOUTH

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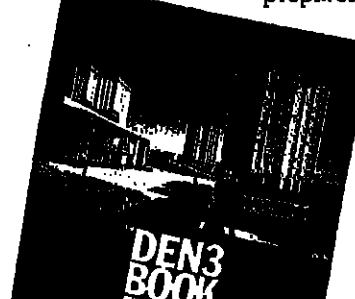
Economy 7 period, and the efficient insulation enables it to be stored. The heaters then give out heat gradually throughout the day, to keep the homes comfortable and warm.

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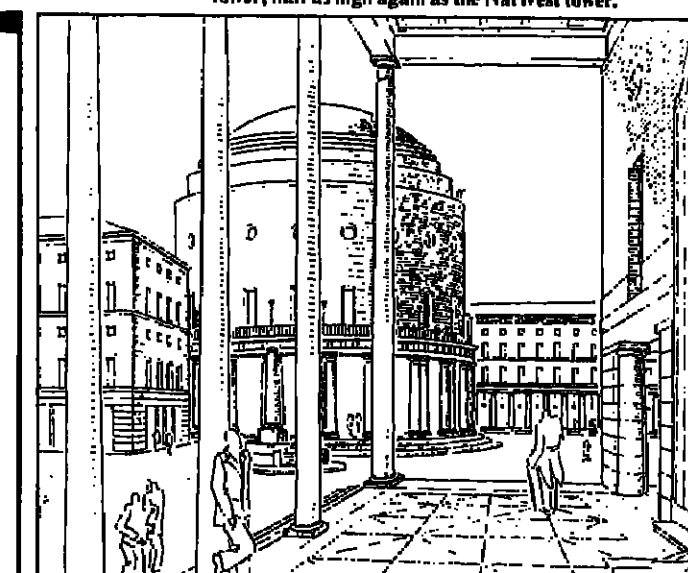
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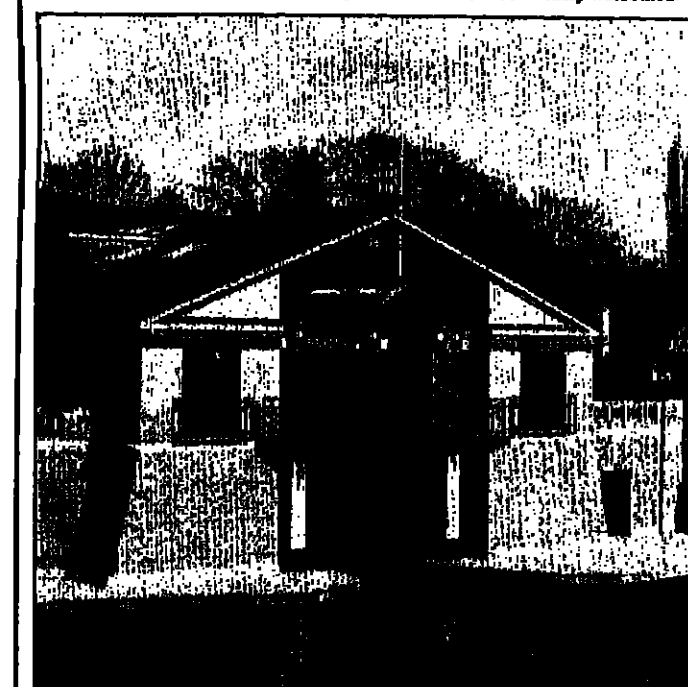
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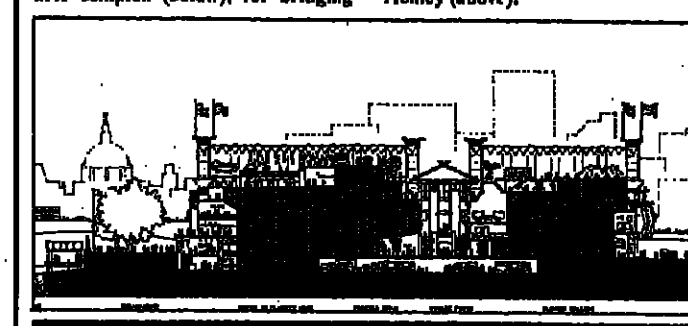
Leon Krier proposed universal Classicism for a quarter of Spitalfields. His masterplan was commissioned by Stuart Lipton and Godfrey Bradman of Rosehaugh-Stanhope as a rival proposal to an earlier scheme by Richard MacCormac and Fitzroy

Robinson. Krier's plan is rather lower in density, consisting of streets, public squares, and individual buildings, and, apart from reservations from those who see Classicism as a symbol of repression or regression, his scheme has been widely welcomed.



The Terry Parroll Partnership were among the most prominent of practices with headline-catching proposals for improving the South Bank arts complex (below), for bridging

London Wall in the City and for putting offices over Charing Cross Station. The practice finished the new headquarters for the Royal Regatta at Henley (above).



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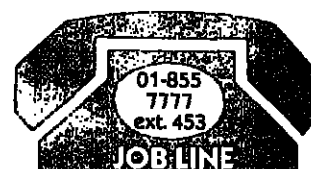
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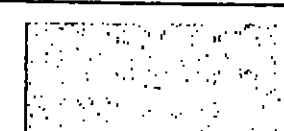
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NEW YEAR VACANCIES

ARCHITECTS

1. Central London — shopping centres £17K-£18K
2. Reading — leisure project £16K or contract
3. Central London — commercial £16K-£18K
4. London — retail projects £16K-£17K
5. Bournemouth/Southampton — mixed projects £14K-£16K

TECHNICIANS

1. London — mixed projects £10K-£14K
2. Central London — historic buildings £12K-£15K
3. Reading — leisure project £11K or contract
4. Reading — housing £12K +
5. Bournemouth — commercial £11K +

CONTRACTS, 3-6 MONTHS, ARCHITECTS/TECHNICIANS, ALL AREAS, RATES £8-£12 PER HR.

ORBWORLD 0703 616067

Recruitment Consultants, 75 Leigh Rd, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO51DG

WE WISH ALL OUR CLIENTS A MERRY XMAS & A HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

PERMANENT VACANCIES
Arch Assistant — Central London residential restoration & renovation.
Estimator — South London, bills of quantity etc. good package + car.
Arch Tech — Sussex, design & build consultancy.
Arch Tech/Space Planner/CAD — To £12K, returns City projects, age to 35.
Arch Tech — Sussex, design & build consultancy, pleasant surroundings, £900.
Space Planner — London W1, immediate start, £10,600.
QS — Measurements, valuations, managing of contractor structural & concrete repairs.

Technical Engineering & Development
3-5 Heathmont Road
London SW14 4TJ
Tel: 01-758 9857

Tripe and Wakeham Partnership

SITE ARCHITECT

required for
MAJOR RETAIL DEVELOPMENT
PORTSMOUTH

Project due to commence on site in May 1987 — construction period expected to be 2½ years.

The successful applicant will be required to work in our London Office prior to taking up site duties.

A residency within easy commuting distance would be an advantage.

Salary by negotiation.

Please apply in writing enclosing your C.V. to:

S. J. SNOOK

TRIPE & WAKEHAM PARTNERSHIP

16 Fitzhardinge Street

London W1H 0EP

KIRKLEES METROPOLITAN COUNCIL Directorate of Technical Services

SENIOR ARCHITECT

— POST NO 390310

Salary Grade: SO2 £11,604-£12,297

Applications are invited for the above post from qualified architects of talent, who have the energy and commitment to see their own projects through all stages from inception to completion on time and on cost.

The Architectural Division of Technical Services is a busy multi-disciplinary office dealing with a wide range of interesting projects including new build, modernisation, adaptations and refurbishment. The Directorate is located in a pleasant modern town centre building and a flexible hours scheme is in operation.

The postholder should possess TEC (Higher) Certificate or equivalent and must have a sound knowledge of building construction and a high standard of draughtsmanship.

Application forms for the above 2 posts and job description from the Personnel Office, Directorate of Technical Services, P.O. Box 973, Civic Centre, Minster Street, Huddersfield HD1 2NA. Tel: Huddersfield 9213. Be 556 and are returnable to the Director, D.C.W. Vane RIBA, by Monday 5th January 1987.

The Council Operates a Trade Union Membership Agreement. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Lewisham is building

SENIOR ARCHITECT to £16,257

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS to £14,289

APPOINTMENTS

THE BRITAIN HADLEY PARTNERSHIP
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12A The Broadway
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Surrey TW9 1JH
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EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR

EXPERIENCED AND JUNIOR, BUILDING SURVEYORS OR ARCHITECTS

to join busy and fast expanding practice of Chartered Building Surveyors with a wide and varied workload. Excellent prospects for the right candidate. Positions are available in our Woodford and Taunton Offices and applications are required from Chartered Building Surveyors, Chartered Architects or Members of the Chartered Institute of Building.

Applicants to apply in writing, with C.V. to:-
D. L. Britain FRICS

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT

The practice has a number of new projects in the London area and is seeking Architects/Architectural Technician with 3-5 years experience to work on schemes from concept design through to working drawings.

INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Projects currently being undertaken include hotels and offices, supermarkets, higher educational buildings and refurbishment.

Please apply in writing, enclosing a CV to:

Liz Sanders
John S Bonington Partnership,
Tythenhanger House, St Albans, Herts AL4 0PG

Alex Gordon Partnership

LONDON OFFICE

We need Architects

of all grades to become involved in the design and development of a range of projects. You will be able to make a significant contribution in our small and friendly office. You should have some years qualified experience working as a member of a team with consultants, and on site.

Initially please write to Redwing House, 38-44 Tabernacle Street, EC2 or telephone 01-251 8787.

Alex Gordon Partnership

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

CLERK OF WORKS

Salary Scale: £10,375-£12,780

A Clerk of Works is required to supervise two buildings presently under construction on campus and further work in the University's development programme. This is a full time permanent appointment but short term contract employment would also be considered. Previous experience is essential; knowledge of mechanical and electrical installations and membership of the Clerk of Works Institute would be an advantage. Further particulars are available from the University of Surrey, Guildford, GU2 5XH, or by telephoning Guildford (0483) 509159.

Applications in the form of a Curriculum Vitae (2 copies) including the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Personnel Department. The closing date for this position is 19th December 1986.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brian Clouston & Partners Ltd

announce that from 1st January 1987 Paul Young will retire from the Company in order to concentrate on a new joint venture.

Further details will be announced in the New Year.

He will still be contactable through BCP Ltd office's where he will remain as a consultant.

THE BRITAIN HADLEY PARTNERSHIP
Chartered Surveyors Building & Quantity Surveyors
9 Hammer Street
Lampoon
Somerset TA1 1RZ
Tel: 0423 87671

Architectural Assistant

required for a small and busy office in Surrey. A wide variety of interesting work is available, so candidates should be experienced in all aspects of building and design. Contact us at:-
Porter Wright Associates
Tel: 0379 67811

HARTINGTON FLEMING & WORSLEY

require a young enthusiastic ARCHITECT with good design skills & sound technical ability. Please write with CV to:
47 Ashley Road
Altrincham, Cheshire

SAUNDERS + HUGGINS

Chartered Architects
require urgently for their Gray's office an ARCHITECT & SENIOR TECHNICIAN for a variety of interesting projects. Apply with CV to:
9 Palmers Avenue, Grays, Essex RM17 5UA
Tel: (0375) 374415

MANCHESTER

Expanding practice opening new office in Manchester. Qualified ARCHITECT required with rehabilitation and housing experience. Company car provided. Please write with CV to:
Mr E. O. McDevitt
R. K. Francis Associates
9 Claremont, Great Horton Road, Bradford BD7 1BG

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Brian Clouston & Partners Limited have a vacancy for a qualified Landscape Architect to work in their Durham office on a variety of interesting and challenging schemes. The post holder will be required to carry projects through from design to completion in a young, busy, multi-disciplinary office. Applicants should be associates of the Landscape Institute with a minimum of 3 years post graduate experience.

Salary £5,000 +.

Apply in writing with CV to:-
T. Robinson
Brian Clouston & Partners Ltd
St Cuthberts House, Framwellgate Path
Durham DH1 1BU

RONALD WARD & PARTNERS

require the following FOR TEAMS WORKING ON PRESTIGE CITY DEVELOPMENTS

ARCHITECT/TECHNICIAN

with modern office design experience. Reply with CV to:-

Mrs J. Avery-Hollingsworth, Partnership Secretary
Ronald Ward & Partners
29 Chesham Place, Belgrave Square
London SW1 8BD

DAMOND LOCK GRABOWSKI & PARTNERS

are looking for LIVELY DESIGN AND PRODUCTION ARCHITECTS

with high design standards for a range of major commercial and retail developments. Excellent prospects with an expanding and dynamic team.

Please send full C.V. together with details of expected salary and availability to:-
Christine Harwood,
Damond Lock Grabowski & Partners
12 Sutton Row, London W1V 6AB

LISTER DREW & ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

Qualified Architects and Architectural Technicians

with approx 5 years experience

are urgently required in our Watton-on-Thames office to work on high tech and retail schemes.

Apply with full CV to:
Lister, Drew & Associates
23 Oatlands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9LY

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE NEW YEAR?

If '87 looks like being prosperous, challenging and exciting - jolly good, hasn't it? Well, we've had a prosperous, challenging and exciting '86 with more jobs than we could fill... and '87 looks set to be the same, with several hundred jobs on file from immediate contracts to long term care posts, for Technicians, Assistants, Young Architects (dozens - help!) for Architects, Associates & Partners - and with the in-depth knowledge and experience that we don't reckon that anyone can give you a better chance of rewarding & successful New Year. Register with us now.

RIBA Appointments Bureau
66 Portland Place
London W1N 4AD
Tel: 01-580 9587
Official Recruitment Consultancy of The Royal Institute of British Architects.

GERALD SHENSTONE & PARTNERS

YOUNG ARCHITECT AND POST PART TWO ASSISTANT

to work on an important development in Central London. Large scope for initiative, informal office atmosphere, willingness to take responsibility and design abilities important. Apply to:
26 Bloomsbury Square, WC1A 3PJ
Tel: 01-534 8593

MALLA

ARCHITECTURAL HOT LINE

01-837 1043
334 Euston Road,
London NW1 3BG

YOUNG ARCHITECT OR TECHNICIAN

with minimum 3 years experience required by busy office with interesting workload. Consistent experience an advantage. Apply in writing with CV to:
Peter Marshall Architects
94 The Mount, York YO2 8AR

WILTSHIRE

TECHNICIAN

A small friendly office specialising in housing and commercial projects requires a Technician with min 6 years experience. Nigel Clark Architects
24 The Parade, Marlborough
Wiltshire SN8 1NE
Tel: 0672 55101

amsa

SECRETARIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
For Permanent and Temporary Appointments
Architectural Management and Secretarial Agency
Specialist Recruitment Consultants 01 734 0532

COMMUNITY DESIGN AND TECHNICAL

Requires part-time architect to take on design and supervision of urgent and interesting houses/shop conversion for community client of approx 12 months duration. Starting mid-January '87. Fees negotiable.

Write with CV to Free Form, 38 Dalton Lane, Newlyn E8 3AZ. Tel: 01-249 3394.

An equal opportunities employer.

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SHOREDITCH STUDIO

Spaces immediately available in shared designers studio in EC2. Newly refurbished, all facilities provided, excellent light. Car parking available. Tel: 01-377 5777

BDC

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

WISHES ALL OUR CLIENTS AND APPLICANTS A VERY HAPPY XMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

We have a stack of vacancies for the New Year & would like to hear from you now or in January:-

PERMANENT & CONTRACT ARCHITECTS (DESIGNERS OR JOBS RUNNERS) - Up to £20K p.a.
ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS
ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIANS - Senior & Junior.
INTERIOR DESIGNERS - City & W.I., up to £17K p.a.
All grades for all areas, London & all Home Counties.

01-828 2931

79 BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD, VICTORIA, LONDON SW1W 0QT

Tripe and Wakeham Partnership

require

ARCHITECTS and SENIOR TECHNICIANS

This is an excellent time to join us. Our workload is expanding with interesting new projects about to begin. These include shopping centres, industrial premises, offices, sound stage studios and some refurbishment schemes.

Four weeks holiday. LV's.

Salary by negotiation.

Good career prospects too.

Apply in writing enclosing your CV to:

Stewart Snook
Tripe & Wakeham Partnership
16 Fitzhardinge Street
London W1H 0ER

LEEDS POLYTECHNIC

Faculty of Design and Environment
Department of Architecture and Landscape
LECTURER II/
SENIOR LECTURER
(LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE)

Applications are invited from qualified landscape architects with experience in education and practice. The successful candidate will undertake design tuition with responsibility for a specialist option, coordinate aspects of the landscape architecture programme and contribute towards the teaching of landscape design theory and course development within the context of this new Faculty. Active research interests would be an advantage.

Salary Scale:
Lecturer II: £8,695-£13,666
Senior Lecturer: £12,615-£14,820 (bar) £15,873
Details from Mrs H. Caine, Staffing Officer, Leeds Polytechnic, 28 Queen Square, Leeds LS2 8AF. Tel: (0532) 482855. Closing date: 5 January 1987. PLEASE ENCLOSE B.A.E. Leeds is an equal opportunity employer.

Layout Architect/Assistant

Start the New Year with a challenging new position within our Regional Architects Department in Luton. We are looking for a talented designer with an imaginative and progressive approach to the design, layout and presentation of all types of private housing developments to help with our expanding workload.

This is a demanding senior position for which you must be self-motivated and have a proven track record with several years' experience in this field.

We can offer you a friendly and dynamic working environment with an excellent salary, company car and the full range of benefits associated with a major international company.

Please apply with full CV to: C. J. Buddery, Dip. Arch., RIBA, Regional Architect, Wimpey Homes Holdings Limited, 250 Toddington Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU4 9EE.

WIMPEY
WELCOME HOME

APPOINTMENTS

NICOL THOMAS VINER BARNWELL

EXPERIENCED ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIANS

Birmingham Office
To work on housing, retail and commercial projects. Specialist Office.
To work on rehabilitation and new build housing projects to a high standard. Telephone for further details or write with full CV to:
Peter Broad
Nicol Thomas Viner Barnwell
Gateway House, 53 High Street, Birmingham B4 7SY
Tel: 021 643 4371

Saudi Arabia

CIVIL ENGINEER

for very large agricultural development company called Hedco (Hill Agric. Dev. Co.). Minimum qualification BSc or equivalent with 10 years experience in supervising house construction, accommodation camps and preferably farm developments such as poultry houses. Age about 40 years, must be fit and able to mix with many nationalities.

Apply to:
Everard Whitehouse, 106 Sutton Court, Chislewick W4 3EE
Tel: 01-994 1584

Experienced Architectural Assistant or Technician

Should hold Part II RIBA or equal HND/MSAT. Knowledge of building construction essential for work in detailing on varied projects.

Driving licence essential, salary negotiable.

Tel: 051 709 8855 for interview.

Harrison Partnership

68 Rodney Street, Liverpool L1 9AF

SENIOR ARCHITECT

required to work closely with a group leader on a broad range of project types.

Enthusiasm essential.

5-10 years post qualification.

Salary negotiable.

Please write to:

David Walker
Brewer Smith & Brewer
Hoppingwood Farm
Robin Hood Way
London SW20 0AB

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Value Added Tax will be chargeable at the standard rate (18%) on all advertisements.

This tax can be reclaimed by all VAT registered companies from H.M. Customs and Excise.



MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Architectural Assistant

Post No T44

Scale 6 (£9,513-£10,164) + essential car user's allowance

Applications are invited from those with HNC Building (or equivalent) who wish to work in a friendly practice based in the delightful small town of Needham Market in the heart of thriving East Anglia.

The successful applicant will be responsible for handling improvement and minor works contracts, as well as assisting as part of a project team on major building schemes. The Architects Section, under the direction of the Principal Architect, handles a variety of schemes covering housing, leisure and industrial buildings and amenity projects.

Assistance with removal expenses and other fringe benefits. Temporary housing accommodation will be given in approved cases.

Application forms are available from the undersigned, telephone (0449) 720711 ext 200, and should be returned by 12th January, 1987.

M. B. GOWERS, Chief Technical Officer, Council Offices, NEEDHAM MARKET, Ipswich, IP6 8DL.



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NO FANCY WRAPPING, NO RIBBONS NO FRILLS JUST GOOD PAY, GOOD OPPORTUNITIES AND SUCCESS

Project Architects Design Architects Technicians Experienced Designers

We can help you make 1987 the most successful year in your career so far as we have many top positions both PERMANENT and CONTRACT for talented and ambitious individuals

So contact us now and make a step forward with Stirling your New Year's resolution
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Kingston
Surrey KT2 5EE
Tel: 548 3720

MWT ARCHITECTS BATH

Our Bath office needs top quality staff at all levels of experience to handle a wide range of provocative projects, including shopping, commercial, offices, residential and hotels - both new build and conversion.

Please write or telephone for an application form from:

Mrs C Corbett, MWT Architects
The Malt House, Sydney Buildings
BATH BA2 6BZ
(0225 - 85701)

Bath Bedford Bristol Exeter Ipswich Plymouth Ramsey Truro

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Clapton Park Urban Design Team

Project Architect

PO1/PO2 £13,950-£15,870 pa inc

We urgently need an experienced and talented Project Architect with a strong interest in Urban Design.

Clapton Park Estate is a multi-cultural and economically deprived area situated in the North East of the borough immediately adjacent to the River Lee navigation canal and Hackney Marshes. The estate is comprised of 1,800 homes and was built between the mid 1950's and early 1970's. It has large panel system built tower blocks, 5-7 storey slab blocks and three storey town houses. This has resulted in a severely fragmented spatial structure combined with problems of building construction, form and function.

In this High Priority Council Project you will be expected to work from a Site Office; and to be committed to tenant participation throughout all stages of the design and construction process. You must be committed to developing your skills in an imaginative way to make a strong contribution to the economic, social and physical regeneration of the estate.

The post requires 3 years post professional registration experience, or between 10 and 12 years relevant experience in an architectural office, which should include 4 or 5 years experience of job running.

Job share applications will be welcomed with or without a partner.

Interviews will be held on 18th February 1987.

Application forms are available from Recruitment Office, Town Hall, Mare Street, E8 1EA or telephone 01-886 5331 (24 hour answering service) quoting reference RP111/BD.

Closing date: 16th January 1987.

The council intends to decentralise its services, therefore the duties, hours of work or location of this post may be subject to change.

HACKNEY COUNCIL

Working for local people

We positively welcome applications from black people, disabled people and women where they are under-represented in particular jobs.

APPOINTMENTS

ARCHITECT & TECHNICIAN

Small mixed practice by Thames in S.W. London seeks Architect & Technician. For further information telephone or write to:-
John Cahill
Barnesley Hewitt & Mallinson
The Studio, 1 Whitehall Lane
Barnes SW13
Tel: 01-878 4667

TROUGHTON McASLAN

Young, expanding practice requires Project Architect to lead design team for new office building in central London. Please write enclosing your CV and examples of your work to:-
Jane Witz
Troughton & McAslan Architects
186 Campden Hill Road
London W8 7TH

ARCHITECT CONSERVATION GROUP UP TO £12,297 Per CA71

An experienced architect is sought, primarily to assist and contribute towards looking after Manchester's architectural heritage. The Group is responsible for the care of 10 listed buildings, some of national importance, ranging from the 16th Century.
Consists of surveys, feasibility studies, preparation of annual budgets, schemes, working drawings and site supervision.
The Department is committed to staff training and every facility will be given to develop skills by on-the-job training, seminars, etc.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE RING
MR K. J. WOJAKOWSKI ON 01-234 4225

Application form and job description from City Architect's Department, Town Hall, Manchester, M60 2JT. Tel: 061 234 4206.
The City Council operates a Union Membership Agreement under which new employees are required to become a member of a recognised trade union.
MANCHESTER City Council
Offering Jobs - Improving Services

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Recruitment would like to wish
their many customers and readers
a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year
If you have a New Year vacancy to fill call us
by January 7th and get your advertisement
in the first issue of the New Year
01-855 7777

DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY SERVICES

ARCHITECT/ SENIOR ARCHITECT

£11271-£13871
(Bar at £12312)

The above post is based in Durnfries and is concerned with the design and construction of projects for all functions of the Regional Council including Education, Social Work, Police, etc. Applicants must be registered Architects and have experience in the above fields.

An essential car user's allowance will be paid. Applications from disabled persons are welcomed. Applications stating age, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of two referees to the Regional Manpower Services Officer at the address below. Closing date for applications: 9th January, 1987.



DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

Dumfries & Galloway Regional Council,
Council Offices, Dumfries DG1 2DD.
Telephone: (0387) 53141

CREATIVE INTERIOR DESIGNERS AND ASSISTANTS

TOP RATES
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Phone or send CV to:
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EXPERIENCED ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT

required immediately
for contract work on hospital buildings in
the Woodford area.
For details of this and other vacancies
contact:
Professional & Technical Services
on 01-485 1664
at 55 Pall Mall Road, London W1S 8LE

FAULKS PERRY CULLEY & RECH

Architects & Landscape Consultants
Applications are invited from talented and
enthusiastic

ARCHITECTS

with preferably a minimum of 2 years post registration
experience. Architectural Assistants to work on a
varied range of large and medium scale projects.

Either telephone or write to:-
Marian Wren
Faulls Perry Culley & Rech
Lockington Hall, Lockington
Derby DE7 9RH
Tel: 05097 2772

NORTH WESTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT G. III - ARCHITECTURE

Salary £5,829-£7,948

This post is based in the Technical Services Department of the Estate Services Division and the postholder is responsible, under the direction of senior professional staff, for providing general technical assistance. Applicants should hold an ONC or an alternative qualification in an appropriate subject and have seven years' relevant experience - or - HNC or an alternative qualification in an appropriate subject and four years' relevant experience - or - HNC, or an alternative qualification in an appropriate subject and two years' relevant experience or have obtained a Diploma in Environment Engineering of the Polytechnic of the South Bank or have passed the Part 2 examination of the RICS.
Application form and job description from the Regional Personnel Division, Gateway House, Piccadilly South, Manchester, M60 7LP. Tel: 061-236 9456 ext 5397. Please quote reference number 8178/A. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms 12.00 noon Wednesday, 31 December, 1986.

THIS AUTHORITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Principal Assistant Architect

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Salary Scale: PO (33-39)
£11,952 to £14,100 plus car
On 1st April 1987 the grade for this post will be
extended to £15,243 pa

We are looking for a Registered Architect with 5 years post-qualification experience to assist in the technical control and co-ordination of all the activities of the design team. The successful candidate will help to ensure all work is produced in accordance with agreed programmes, specifications, statutory and other requirements.

Excellent conditions of service include:-
100% Removal costs
Settling-in allowance of £300
Assistance with professional fees in connection with sale/purchase of up to £2,000, or 2/3, whichever is the lesser.
Flexi-time Temporary Council Housing would be considered. Lesser car, or casual user car allowance.
Job descriptions and application forms are available from The Personnel Department, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent. Tel: Ashford (0233) 37311, ext 407.

Closing date: 12th January 1987.
ASHFORD
KENT'S GROWTH AREA

COMMUNITY DESIGN TECHNICAL

Requires experienced architect to run the project. Must have design, technical and contract expertise. Able to supervise others and work on the feasibility, design and supervision of innovative community schemes.
Salary scale up to PO3 (£15,000). Write with CV to Free Form, 38 Dalston Lane, London E8 3AZ. Tel: 01-249 3394. An equal opportunities employer.

ARCHITECTS

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BELL FISHER PARTNERSHIP
Landscape Architects
180 Chiltern Drive
Burylands, Strilston
Surrey KT8 8LS
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Hampton Court fire system modified

MODIFICATIONS to Hampton Court's automatic fire detection system have been made and other improvements to security and management arrangements are also in operation.

The improvements the DoE has implemented are in response to the recommendations made by Sir John Gurlick in his report, published in July, on last March's disastrous fire.

All the control panels to the fire systems have been modified so that switches cannot be left in the "reset" position, lockable covers have been installed and a memory facility has been incorporated.

The environment secretary Nicholas Ridley announced the changes in a written reply to a Parliamentary question from Toby Jessel MP for Twickenham in whose constituency the palace lies.

Ridley admitted that the complexity of the new system had caused problems because procedures were not made sufficiently clear.

"The lessons we have learned will be applied at Hampton Court and at other buildings for which my department is responsible," said Ridley.

Better fire drills involving the fire brigade have taken place and arrangements have been made for more effective training with more provision of advice on the efficient operation of the fire system.

The Property Services Agency is checking fire detection systems installed in other government buildings and considering whether systems should be installed where none exist at present.

Sir John Gurlick's report has also been sent to other interested bodies such as English Heritage and the National Trust.

DoE urges checks on overcladding to block fire hazards

FIRE risks inherent in overcladding systems for tower blocks have been identified in a new BRE report. The DoE has called for systems to be checked and recommended that fire barriers be fitted where appropriate.

The BRE's research has revealed that with some overcladding systems there is an increased risk of fire spread — especially vertical spread where

overcladding systems incorporate combustible elements. Where such cladding is aluminium, BRE's lab tests have

By Lee Mallett

shown that a fire within the cavity behind the cladding (the cavity can either be designed or "fortuitous") can melt the aluminium and burn through to the surface several storeys above.

The flames could re-enter a tower block through windows.

However the BRE says that "fires of such severity are rare", and points out that "multi-storey blocks have been clad for 10 years with systems which have a potential fire-spread within cavities" but no fires featuring excessive vertical spread have been reported.

The DoE has advised that both existing and proposed overcladding systems should be examined to see if modifications are needed.

It recommends that for completed overcladding systems made of aluminium with a combustible insulant, fire barriers should be fitted if a suitable opportunity arises.

For proposed sheet overcladding systems, local authorities should specify either non-combustible insulants or fire barriers every two storeys.

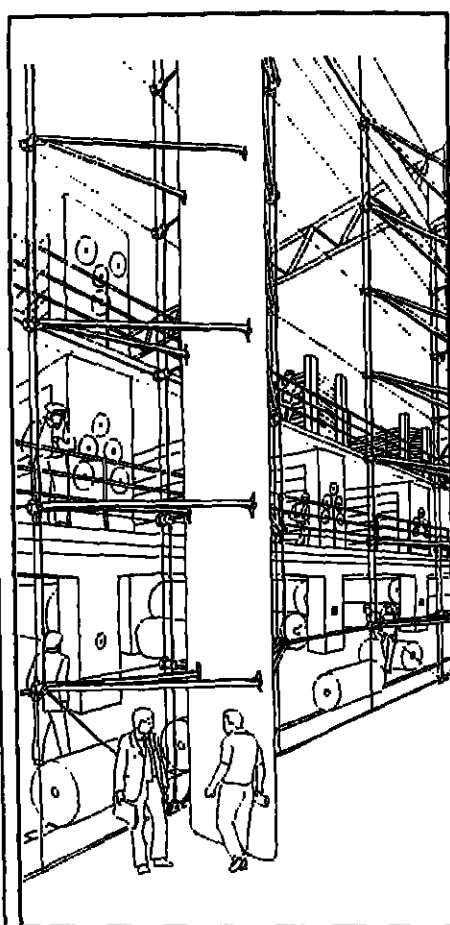
With other types of external cladding fire spread is likely to be small, according to the DoE, but it makes several recommendations where a non-sheeted system is proposed.

For rendered metal lathing systems using thermoplastic insulant, authorities should specify sufficient metal fasteners to stabilise the cladding and fit fire barriers every two storeys.

Where a thermosetting insulant is used sufficient metal fixings should be specified to stabilise the cladding.

Fire barriers which also support the cladding should be specified for every storey where glass fabric reinforced thin renders with a thermoplastic insulant are used.

Copies of the report costing £25 are available from the BRE, Garston, Warrington W2 7JR.



Could this be the last national newspaper building in England since the *Financial Times'* current City headquarters, Broad House, was completed in the 1950s?

The "Pink" *Telegraph* is keen to keep up standards than old papers, it seems. A detail of its new centre, designed by Nicholas Grimshaw, Partners with Robt. Design Partnership, Bradford. The £7.5m just reached an agreement with the LDDC for a site on the corner of the junction between the A13 and eastern side of the Blackwall tunnel northern approach road.

A long "heroic" will present itself to travellers on the A13 at night — 100m of double-width offset presses will be visible. Grimshaw won the £7.5m award for industrial architecture in 1977 and was an assessor of the award in 1984. Robinson Design Partnership designed the Bradford Telegraph & Argus press hall, completed in 1981.

Thamesmead trust set to sell towers

FOUR lakeside residential tower blocks in Thamesmead may be sold to help finance the purchase of the town from the London Residuary Body.

Thamesmead Town, the company chaired by Clive Thornton, was originally scheduled to take over from the LRB on January 1, but February 1 or April 1 look more likely as the two sides have failed to agree a price.

The LRB surveyor valued Thamesmead at £25 million but Thornton, with backing from the City, had only raised £10 million and it is believed negotiations had reached the £18 million mark.

Suggested methods of raising the extra cash have involved selling off housing with the four 12-storey blocks as prime candidates.

Each block contains 24 one-bedroom and 24 two-bedroom flats, in a lakeside setting. Refurbished by a private developer they could command handsome prices on the open market.

The only problem with this scheme is the existing tenants, excluding a handful who have exercised their right to buy, who may wish to stay.

But legislation which came into effect only weeks ago allows landlords such as local authorities and housing associations to move tenants out of a tower block into alternative accommodation whether they choose to leave or not.

The company may also be forced to sell further homes to help service the loans to buy the town.

Figures of around 100 homes a year have been mentioned together with a one third reduction in staff levels within five years. The company will be expected to break even within five years and already there are plans to raise rents by 15 per cent in April and for substantial service charge rises.

Whitechapel setback

A LOCALLY developed plan for Whitechapel has received a setback with the neighbourhood committee of councillors voting five to three in favour of a rival scheme by Pengap.

The plan has been coordinated by the Tower Hamlets Environment Trust and involves a 22,000sq m shopping centre, light industrial workshops and more than 300 homes.

The final decision between Pengap, THET and a third scheme by Charterhall will be made by a full meeting of Tower Hamlets council at the end of January.

Diary date

THE receiving date for the Royal Scottish Academy summer exhibition next year will be March 23.

Building optimism

A GROWTH of 3 per cent construction industry output has been predicted in a report by the Building & Civil Engineering Economic Development Committee for 1987.

The report also predicts further rise of 1 per cent output in 1988 but expresses concern that the South gains such a large share of market.

The best prospects appear to be in office construction "unparalleled growth" of 10 per cent predicted in 1986 and 5 per cent in 1988.

More modest growth of per cent is forecast for private housing market a year but public sector housing output is set to fall by 27 per cent between 1985 and 1988, falling trend in industrial building will continue.



Newcastle College, Susan Bradbury, stained glass window.



BOC Group, Sol Le Witt, mural.

Mobil tops art awards

The second Art & Work Awards were won by Mobil North Sea, the BOC Group and Newcastle-upon-Tyne college of arts and technology. Richard Rogers presented the awards at the Royal Academy.

Mobil's prize, sponsored by developer Capital & Counties, was for the most outstanding contribution to art in the working environment. BOC won the award for the art collection it has installed in its new headquarters at Windesham. It includes works by Sol Le Witt and Gilbert & George. Space Planning Services sponsored the award.

Susan Bradbury's stained glass windows won the Newcastle college its award for a site-specific commission in the school of art and design, sponsored by IBM. Art for Offices sponsored a special award which went to the Forestry Commission for the sculptors' working environment it has set up in Grizedale Forest and an outdoor theatre.

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Mobil North Sea Limited, Brian Kelly, untitled.



Grizedale Forest, Richard Harris, Quarry Structure.